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The Belize Times

Established 1957

15 DECEMBER 2024 | ISSUE NO: 5433

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NO GST WEEKENDS

Partnering w/ People & Business

IT'S OUR 16th ANNIVERSARY!!

DOUBLE YOUR REWARD

ON EVERY PURCHASE MADE DURING THE WEEKEND OF

DECEMBER 13,14,15

THAT'S 10% ON YOUR CARD!!

STOCK UP AND SAVE FOR CHRISTMAS!!

"Cabinet and I will continue to take every step possible to control the erosion of the purchasing power of the Belize dollar."

– Prime Minister John Briceño, 2024-25 budget presentation

■ Pg. 2

Agric-Drone Training Complete | Community Comes Together: "Just a Dollar" ■ Pg. 10 & 11

BTB's Christmas
PUTTING BELIZE ON THE GLOBAL MAP
Via Conservation, International Ads, Santa & more
COMING SOON!
BELIZE MARINE RESCUE & EDUCATIONAL CENTER
■ Pg. 8

"Let's drive with care for our lives and those of our fellow citizens" – Prime Minister John Briceño

NO GST WEEKENDS

Partnering w/ People & Business

December 11, 2024 - The Government of Belize (GOB) has unveiled an aggressive strategy to alleviate the cost-of-living pressures caused by global inflation. For the first time, General Sales Tax (GST) will be waived on local retail sales of all standard-rated goods on December 14, 15, 21, and 22, 2024. During these weekends, Belizeans can shop GST-free at stores nationwide, saving 12.5% on most purchases. Exceptions include motor vehicles, fuel, firearms, and alcohol. Imported goods will still incur GST, and the waiver applies only to immediate purchases—not items bought on credit, layaway, or wholesale.

Aware of the strain on families, the Government of Belize (GOB) has initiated several measures to alleviate financial burdens and stimulate economic growth. This is amidst rising global inflation which is impacting citizens across all socio-economic levels.

To maximize transparency, shoppers are urged to review receipts for proper GST application and report discrepancies to the Belize Tax Services Department. The initiative also ensures GST registrants can easily comply without reprogramming their systems. The government has emphasized that this move supports households while boosting local commerce.

Further seasonal relief includes zero-rated GST for the entire month of December on picnic shoulder hams, smoked ham legs, and imported turkeys—staples of Christmas celebrations.

All above is part of a broader GOB commitment to combatting inflation and empowering Belizeans. Key among these is the establishment of a Supplies Control Unit to enforce penalties on businesses exploiting consumers and the passing of the Removable Assets Bill to improve access to credit. In tandem, GOB has made critical changes to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Income Tax, including raising the income tax threshold to $29,000, allowing Belizeans to retain more of their earnings. Additionally, the government eliminated stamp duty on mortgages of $100,000 or less, facilitating homeownership for lower-income families.

Recognizing the strain of fuel costs, GOB has absorbed significant price hikes, while offering tax exemptions on essential goods like flour assisting bakers not to pass on to consumers. The tourism sector benefits from targeted tax breaks, further fostering economic growth. To improve public transportation, the government has facilitated the importation of new buses, bolstering connectivity across the country.

Support for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) remains a priority, with targeted financial assistance to help these businesses thrive. Meanwhile, farmers in the north receive fertilizer subventions, strengthening the agriculture sector's resilience.

Educational support has also been pivotal, with GOB expanding the National Health Insurance (NHI) program and introducing free education in select schools across the Belize and southern districts. This initiative includes funding for school fees, uniforms, and books, directly alleviating financial burdens on families.

Minimum wage earners received a significant boost with the increase from $3.30 to $5.00 an hour. Additionally, low-income housing programs and land grants for first-time owners are fostering economic empowerment and stability.

Through these measures, GOB demonstrates a steadfast commitment to supporting Belizeans in navigating economic challenges while laying the foundation for a more equitable and prosperous future.

Excerpts from Press Release:

Government of Belize Announces First-Ever GST Christmas Waiver

December 9, 2024 - GST Registrants utilizing a POS system or programmable cash register will not have to re-program their systems as the zero-rate can be applied using a discount of 12.5% on the goods purchased. The GST Registrants who utilize cash registers that add GST to the sale will simply not add GST on sales on the specified dates. Shoppers are advised to check their receipts at the time of purchase to ensure GST is not incorrectly applied and to report any abuse to the Belize Tax Services Department.

When filing GST returns for December 2024, registrants are required to report zero-rated sales on line 110 and provide detailed sales data for the GST-free days. Input tax recovery for eligible goods remains unaffected.

This initiative underscores the Government's commitment to provide impactful relief to combat global inflation which has adversely affected the cost of living while supporting our local businesses and economy.

2nd Annual National Anti-Corruption Conference

HOSTED BY THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, CONSTITUTIONAL & POLITICAL REFORM AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

"Empowered by Choice, United by Voice, Belize Against Corruption."

The Second Annual National Anti-Corruption Conference was successfully held on Monday, December 10, at the Best Western Plus Belize Biltmore Plaza in Belize City. Spearheaded by the Good Governance Unit (GGU), under the Ministry of Public Service, Constitutional & Political Reform and Religious Affairs, the event was organized in collaboration with the United States Department of State's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

The conference brought together key stakeholders from government, civil society, and international organizations to unite under the theme: "Empowered by Choice, United by Voice, Belize Against Corruption."

The morning session commenced with presentations on the following topics:

- **Onboarding Civil Asset Recovery & Anti-Money Laundering** by the Financial Intelligence Unit
- **Developments in Open Contracting & Procurement** by the Contractor General
- **Updates from the Ombudsman and the National Human Rights Institute**

Following the presentations, a discussion was held where panellists addressed questions from the audience, fostering constructive dialogue and valuable exchanges of ideas.

The afternoon session emphasized partnerships and capacity building of public officers at the national and municipal Levels. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlighted initiatives for good governance and collaboration with the GGU through the CARSI Grant in the central government. A professor from Galen University delivered a compelling presentation on the topic, "Capacity Building for Anti-Corruption at the Municipal Level," engaging mayors from across the country during a vibrant question-and-answer session.

Participants were then invited to roundtable discussions on subjects including Civil Asset Recovery & Anti-Money Laundering Initiative, Open Contracting & Procurement, and the Role of the Ombudsman and National Human Rights Initiatives. These discussions encouraged deep dives into tackling challenges and creating opportunities to advance Belize's anti-corruption agenda.

The event concluded with presentations summarizing the outcomes of the roundtable discussions. A heartfelt thanks were extended to all presenters, moderators, and guests who contributed to the success of this year's conference.

Through the GGU, the Ministry of Public Service, Constitutional & Political Reform and Religious Affairs reaffirmed its commitment to combating corruption and strengthening transparency, accountability, and good governance across Belize. As highlighted throughout the day, empowering citizens and fostering collaborative partnerships remain pivotal to this effort. (release)

The Belize Times

serving Belize since 1957 as the longest continuous newspaper.

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EDITORIAL

PINCHING BACK AT THE COST OF LIVING

The John Briceño Government of Belize has confronted the post-Covid global phenomenon of the higher Cost of Living head-on. The search for the source of the price hikes was not to find excuses but to understand how to tackle and drive down the cost of living with the understanding that governments do not have unlimited powers over their economies. This economic phenomenon can be compared to the March 2020 COVID-19 pandemic that started in mainland China with no way to contain its spread worldwide. Inflation hit all countries right after we heard of ships stuck at the Suez Canal. Then, the Ukraine-Russia war and the rest was economic history. Flour and fuel were the first two products that hit everyone's pocket the fastest and most challenging. Practically everyone eats flour-based products and uses petroleum-derived products. Belize was not spared, and governments worldwide have been the scapegoats of this economic landslide, which has recently shown signs of ending. The planBelize Government did not sit waiting for it to stop; they were proactive and held out potent economic umbrellas for the people to absorb the shock to their pockets.

To pinch back at inflation, this is a long list of proactive measures taken by the Briceño administration in no chronological order: Reinstatement of Teacher Salary 10 percent and Increment; Minimum Wage Up to Five Dollars which triggered domino effect hikes on other salaries; Government Subsidies at varied times for Bakers, Bus Transport, Tourist Operators; Effective absorbing of losses when regular and diesel fuel have exorbitant price hikes; MSME policy, laws and regulation for several aspects of that sector of the business world; 14,750 students who receive daily meals in schools(6,784 Primary & 7966 Secondary); 21 Secondary Schools in the Social Upliftment Program meaning free Uniform, books, device, transport and meal; Belize Government Lotteries Limited's transparent and accountable running of the People's Boledo with 564 per cent hike in profits; Boledo Profits earmarked for charities and, specifically, the National Health Insurance; Free Clinics at all Public Hospitals; Rollout of NHI to all the country including Cayo in Jan 2025; One and a Million Anniversary Jackpot; No GST Weekends 2024 Christmas; and Workers earning less than $29,000 per year utterly exempt from paying income tax. This list is the broadest set of initiatives the Government of Belize has served to their people, and in less than a full term of office.

These initiatives are not handouts. The people of Belize are actively participating in a social partnership borne out of planBelize, a testament to a country working for itself. The government has successfully garnered buy-in from all sectors of society except the few virulent members of a party called the UDP. This inclusive approach and the government's leadership have led to a working labour force with a minuscule 2 per cent unemployment rate and a 6.6 per cent growth in the 2024 third quarter's Gross Domestic Product. The Consumer Confidence Index reflects this, showing that the shopping frenzy this Christmas season is poised to get even more energetic as people await the arrival of the no GST weekends. Similarly, people await the General Elections with different expectations than in 2020. People intend to extend the planBelize contract and take Belize to even higher echelons of prosperity. There is much more to do, and the Briceño administration is very aware as the planning for the next step has never ceased.

May our wishes on this called the Holidays come true. And Merry Christmas to all!

EDITORIAL

en Español

RECORTE DEL COSTE DE LA VIDA

El Gobierno de Belice de John Briceño se ha enfrentado de frente al fenómeno mundial post-Covid del aumento del coste de la vida. La búsqueda del origen de las subidas de precios no ha consistido en encontrar excusas, sino en comprender cómo hacer frente al coste de la vida y reducirlo, sabiendo que los gobiernos no tienen poderes ilimitados sobre sus economías. Este fenómeno económico puede compararse con la pandemia de COVID-19 de marzo de 2020 que comenzó en China continental sin que hubiera forma de contener su propagación por todo el mundo. La inflación golpeó a todos los países justo después de que nos enteráramos de los barcos atascados en el Canal de Suez. Luego, la guerra Ucrania-Rusia y el resto fue historia económica. La harina y el combustible fueron los dos primeros productos que golpearon el bolsillo de todos con mayor rapidez y dificultad. Prácticamente todo el mundo consume productos a base de harina y utiliza productos derivados del petróleo. Belice no se libró, y los gobiernos de todo el mundo han sido los chivos expiatorios de este desplome económico, que recientemente ha dado señales de estar llegando a su fin. El Gobierno de PlanBelice no se sentó a esperar a que se detuviera; fue proactivo y tendió potentes paraguas económicos para que la gente absorbiera el impacto en sus bolsillos.

Para volver a pellizcar la inflación, esta es una larga lista de medidas proactivas tomadas por la administración Briceño sin orden cronológico: Restablecimiento del salario docente en un 10% y aumentos; Salario Mínimo hasta cinco dólares, lo que desencadenó un efecto dominó en el aumento de otros salarios; Subsidios del Gobierno en diversos momentos para panaderos, transporte en autobús, operadores turísticos; Absorción efectiva de las pérdidas cuando el combustible regular y diésel tienen aumentos exorbitantes de precios; Política, leyes y regulación de las MIPYME para varios aspectos de ese sector del mundo empresarial; 14.750 estudiantes que reciben comidas diarias en las escuelas (6.784 de primaria y 7.966 de secundaria); 21 escuelas secundarias en el programa de mejora social, lo que significa uniformes, libros, dispositivos, transporte y comidas gratuitas; gestión transparente y responsable del Boledo del pueblo por parte de Belize Government Lotteries Limited, con un aumento de los beneficios del 564%; beneficios del Boledo destinados a organizaciones benéficas y, en concreto, al Seguro Nacional de Salud; Clínicas gratuitas en todos los hospitales públicos; implantación del Seguro Nacional de Salud en todo el país, incluido Cayo, en enero de 2025; premio gordo del aniversario del Boledo de un millón; Navidad de 2024 sin fines de semana de IVA; y exención total del pago del impuesto sobre la renta para los trabajadores que ganen menos de 29.000 dólares al año. Esta lista es el conjunto más amplio de iniciativas que el Gobierno de Belice ha servido a su pueblo, y en menos de un mandato completo.

Estas iniciativas no son dádivas. El pueblo de Belice participa activamente en una asociación social nacida del planBelice, testimonio de un país que trabaja para sí mismo. El gobierno ha conseguido la adhesión de todos los sectores de la sociedad, excepto los pocos miembros virulentos de un partido llamado UDP. Este enfoque integrador y el liderazgo del Gobierno han dado lugar a una mano de obra activa con una tasa de desempleo minúscula del 2% y un crecimiento del 6,6% en el Producto Interior Bruto del tercer trimestre de 2024. El Índice de Confianza del Consumidor lo refleja, mostrando que el frenesí de compras de esta temporada navideña está a punto de volverse aún más enérgico mientras la gente espera la llegada de los fines de semana sin IVA. Del mismo modo, la gente espera las Elecciones Generales con expectativas diferentes a las de 2020. La gente tiene la intención de ampliar el contrato del PlanBelice y llevar a Belice a niveles aún más altos de prosperidad. Hay mucho más por hacer, y la administración Briceño es muy consciente, ya que la planificación para el siguiente paso no ha cesado.

Que nuestros deseos en estas fiestas se hagan realidad. Y ¡Feliz Navidad a todos!

Belize Negotiates w/ Mexico Keeping Food & Exports on the Table

BELIZE & EL SALVADOR

Only Screw worm Free countries in Central America

Minister Jose Mai – "As the Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise of Belize, I have had the opportunity to engage and work closely with two outstanding Ministers of Agriculture of Mexico: Dr. Victor Villalobos, the former Minister of Agriculture who served under President Obrador and who recently left office and, also, Dr. Julio Berdegue who was appointed just over two months ago, under President Claudia Sheinbaum.

Both have proven to be forward thinking open minded, brilliant Ministers of Agriculture and willing to engage Belize on agriculture trade and cooperation.

Dr. Villalobos is recognized for contributing to Belize's expansion of cattle trade to Mexico and for supporting

Belize's tariff free access for various products to Mexico.

Dr. Villalobos was also supportive in facilitating Belize's Shrimp farms reinstatement on the SICPA network (Sistema de información de consulta de plantas autorizadas), allowing Belize's continued market access for Shrimp to Mexico. He further supported Technical Cooperation agreements between INIFAP (Instituto Nacional de Investigación Forestal Agro Pecuario) and the Ministry of Agriculture to provide technical assistance with the production of coconuts, soybean, Pitahaya and livestock.

Today, and even if Belize is to have incidences of the New World Screwworm, Dr Julio Berdegue, the newly appointed Minister has announced that cattle exports from Belize to Mexico will continue with practical and appropriate amendments to the export protocols. He expressed that the protocols could be easily achieved by Belize exporters.

Dr. Berdegue and the Mexican Animal Health Authorities recognizes Belize's effort and success in preventing entry of Screw Worms into Belize.

Regarding coconuts, in the next week Mexico will respond to Belize's request for market access for green coconuts with husks. It is very likely that Belize will need to carry out a Pest Risk Assessment as the first step towards achieving market access.

The Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Enterprise is grateful to both Mexican Ministers of Agriculture Dr. Victor Villalobos and Dr. Julio Berdegue for contributing to technical cooperation and facilitating market access for Belize's agriculture products to Mexico and in so doing contributing to improving the livelihoods of thousands of Belizean small farmers and their families. We recognize and thank the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Extension Officers, BAHA, BLPA, IICA and OIRSA for working tirelessly in keeping Belize Screw Worm Free. The fact that Belize and El Salvador are the only two countries in Central America that are Screw Worm Free speaks volumes.

Special thanks to Senior Technical Advisor, Hugh O'Brien for his leadership, dedication and hard work and thanks to Belize's Investment Ambassador Jaime Briceño for his valuable contribution to the trade dialogue with Mexico."

PRESS RELEASE #5/24 - Statutory Instrument No. 143 of 2024: Prevention, Control, and Eradication of New World Screwworm (Cochliomyia hominivorax) is in effect.

For Immediate Release:

The Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise (MAFSE) have been monitoring the spread of the New World Screwworm in Central America for 2 years and have increased the threat level to extremely high.

Guatemala and Mexico have confirmed New World Screwworm (NWS) cases in their territory.

To strengthen Belize's prevention measures, on November 8, 2024, Statutory Instrument 143 of 2024: Belize Agricultural Health Authority [Prevention, Control, and Eradication of New World Screwworm (Cochliomyia hominivorax)] Regulations were enacted. They will allow the continued strengthening of preventative measures and the implementation of control and eradication protocols should the need arise.

The key preventative measures include inspection of animals, early notification, curing of wounds, and controlled movement of animals.

To ensure Belize remains free from New World Screwworm, producers, transporters, and the public are reminded, under SI 143 of 2024, to:

- Immediately report all cases of myiasis (infestation of wounds by larvae) to the nearest BAHA office, MAFSE office, or healthcare provider.
- Ensure small stock and livestock are physically inspected and have an NWS Health Inspection Certificate and Movement Permit.
- Ensure movement of all small stock and livestock during daylight hours.
- Declare all animals (including pets) upon arrival at an Animal Movement Control Point.
- Import animals only with the approval and authorization of BAHA.
- Not import animals through a non-established point of entry.
- Any person who contravenes these regulations commits an offense and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The Belize Agricultural Health Authority reminds its partners, stakeholders, and the public that this highly prolific and devastating parasite has been proven to be continuously spreading through Central America due to the illegal movement of animals.

Cases of suspected larval infestations in animals can be reported to the BAHA Animal Health Department offices at 302-1388 in Orange Walk, 824-4872 in Central Farm, or via text at 6707003.

For further information, email the Animal Health Department at an imalhea lt h@ baha. org . bz or call 824-4872. (release)

Minister of Agriculture Discusses Screwworm, Cattle Trade, and Market Access for Green Coconuts with Mexico's New Agriculture Minister

December 9, 2024 - Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, met with Dr. Julio Berdegué Sacristán, Mexico's newly appointed Secretary (Minister) of Agriculture, to discuss agriculture and trade issues of mutual interest on December 8, in Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico.

During the meeting, Minister Mai emphasized to Dr. Berdegué the importance of facilitating the movement of agricultural products from Belize to Mexico. Currently, Belize exports only $8 - $10 million worth of goods to Mexico, while importing over $300 million worth. Mexico agreed to respond to Belize's request to export green coconuts with husks to Mexico and to expedite the risk assessment process. Belize indicated that it expects to export as many as five million green coconuts annually, primarily to Quintana Roo, Mexico, in the coming years.

Minister Mai informed Dr. Berdegué that, to date, Belize has been successful in keeping the New World Screwworm out of the country. In addition to a highly efficient traceability

Continued on page 8

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 1/2025

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be $83,200,000.00

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of $200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Thursday, 2 January 2025 and will be redeemed on Thursday, 3 April 2025.

Each tender must be for $200 or a multiple of $200 and must specify to five decimal places the amount, which is offered for each one hundred dollars face value of the Bills sought.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 27 December 2024.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Thursday 2 January 2025.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

Shea
LEADERSHIP THAT DELIVERS!

Corozal Bay
MOBILE CLINIC SERVICES

St. Francis Xavier R.C. School

Sat, 14 Dec
08:00 AM - 03:00 PM

Sun, 15 Dec
08:00 AM - 12:00 noon

- Vital Statistics Unit
- Social Security Board
- NHI
- Corozal Community Hospital

FOR MORE INFORMATION
+501 676-7526

Vital Statistics Unit
- Birth & Death Reg.
- Late Reg.
- Corrections
- Reg. of Marriage
- Deed Polls

Social Security Board
- Renewal of SS Card
- Replacement of SS Card
- Update of Personal Info.

National Health Insurance
- New Patient Registration for Corozal Poly-Clinic

Corozal Community Hospital
- Glucose Check
- Blood Pressure
- Hep B, HPV, & Flu Vaccines
- Weight Check

STAY SAFE, STAY SMART
NEW RULES IN EFFECT!

SPEED AND SOBRIETY
REGULATIONS ARE NOW IN EFFECT

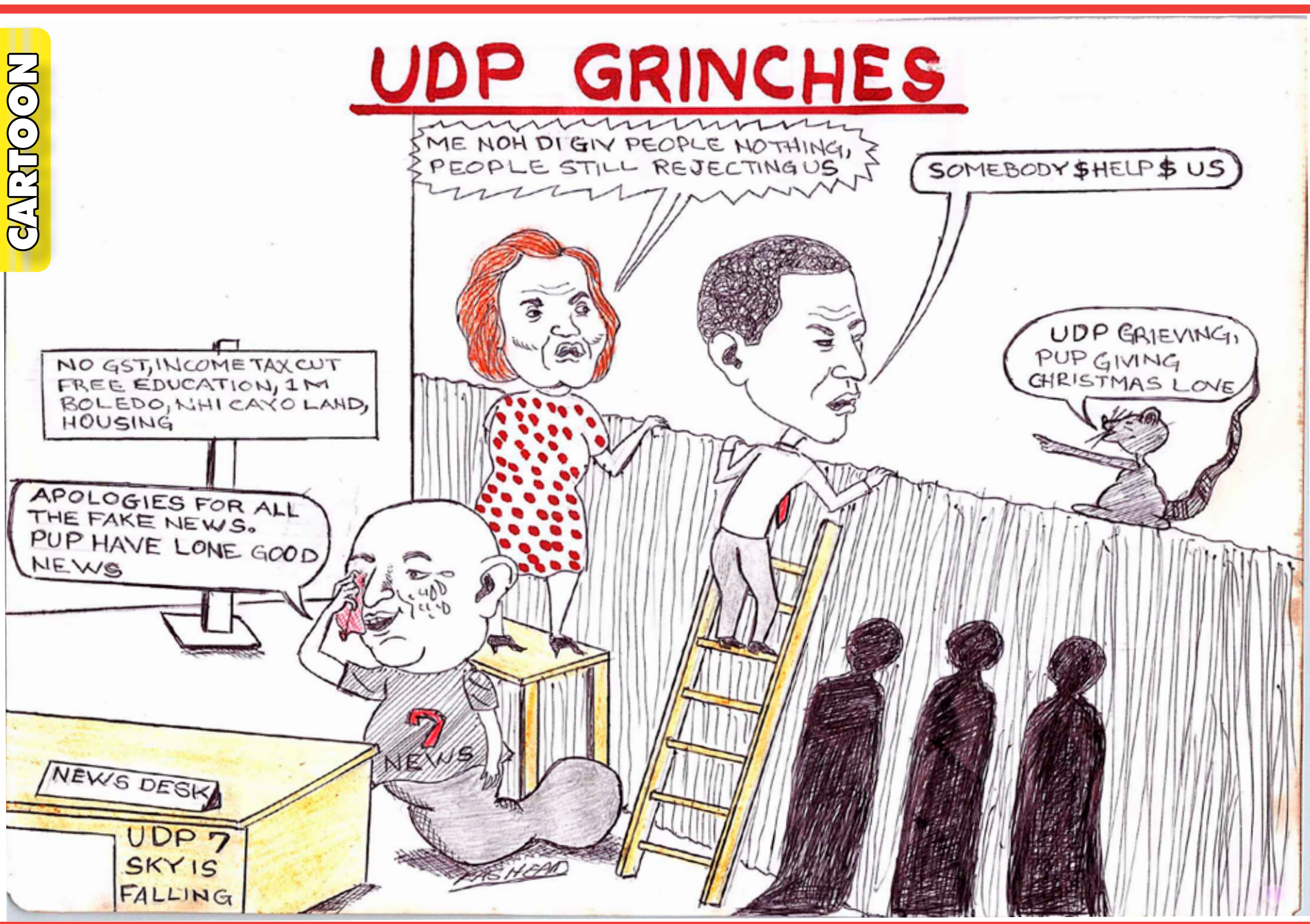
Radar guns and breathalyzers are now being used to ensure everyone's safety on the road.

MAKE SURE...
you're driving within speed limits and sober. Because safe driving is everyone's responsibility.

KNOW THE LAWS, AVOID THE RISKS

A message from the Second Road Safety Project.
www.facebook.com/SecondRoadSafetyProjectBZE

CARTOON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APOLOGIES FOR ALL THE FAKE NEWS. PUP HAVE LONE GOOD NEWS
UDP GRIEVING, PUP GIVING CHRISTMAS LOVE
7 NEWS
NEWS DESK
UDP 7 SKY IS FALLING

Prime Minister John Briceño

Orange Walk Central Christmas Kids Party

planBelize Service in OW Central

Residents of Orange Walk Central or surrounding areas are getting mobile-type access to legal advice and many other government services at one site for two days.

Do you need to register a birth, apply for a birth certificate or some other assistance from VSU?

Help has come to the residents of Ow Central for December 5 and 6th.

They can access the Vital Statistics Unit and the Legal Advice and Services Center at the Philip Alvarez Park under the dome for those two days. This is planBelize in actions as has been experienced all over the country even with land issues especially.

PM Welcomes UNHCR High Commissioner

Prime Minister John Briceño– "I am pleased to welcome to Belize Mr. Filippo Grandi - High Commissioner for UNHCR. In our meeting, we discussed issues in relation to migration governance and forced displacement in our region.

Belize was congratulated on our migration management and encouraged for our efforts towards enabling legislative changes.

Belize currently holds the Presidency Pro-Tempore of the Contemporary Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) aimed at creating a coordinated regional response to forced displacement.

Grandi is perhaps the highest level UN Representative to visit Belize."

Heartfelt Words on Tragic Road Traffic Losses

"Over the past few weeks, our collective national heart has grieved multiple fatalities and major injuries to our families, children, friends, and community members.

Last night again, we lost 10 lives and persons injured in yet another horrific accident.

Our hearts go out to the families impacted by all these traffic incidents. We're sorry, so very sorry for their loss.

To all our citizens, I urge you to utilize our roadways with sound judgment and care. Adhere to the traffic laws, speed limits, and carrying capacities of our motor vehicles. Let's drive with care for our lives and those of our fellow citizens utilizing our roadways and municipal streets and pathways.

We are each other's keepers in every sphere of life and interactions.

I urge you to please let's be safe and considerate in our actions and decisions."

(Prime Minister John Briceño post on December 9, 2024)

BTB PUTTING BELIZE ON THE GLOBAL TRAVEL MAP

Belize's Marine Rescue & Educational Center: A New Era in Conservation

Minister Anthony Mahler and the BTB are proud to announce the groundbreaking and unveiling of the Belize Marine Rescue & Educational Center, a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating endangered marine life like the Antillean manatee.

Located in Gales Point, Manatee, this project is spearheaded by Jamal Galvez and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium and Research Institute Belize, with the support of many partners, including the Ministry of Tourism & Diaspora Relations and the Belize Tourism Board. It represents a major step forward in wildlife conservation, education, and community engagement in Belize.

Together, we are safeguarding marine ecosystems for generations to come. Stay tuned for more updates on this incredible initiative!

Anytime Min. Mahler puts up one of these signs it doesn't take more than needed time for construction for the project to be in full fruition: vis-à-vis Berger Field, Seine Bight Welcome Center, and we can go on and on all over the jewel. Min. Mahler and the planBelize team have similar stories of a group heaven-bent on taking Belize to the planBelize promised land of greater economic prosperity and increasingly higher standards of living.

Belize Shines at USTOA Annual Conference!

The BTB is happy to announce Belize's participation in the USTOA (United States Tour Operators Association) Annual Conference! This prestigious event brings together top travel industry leaders to showcase the best in tourism experiences, and Belize is proud to be part of it.

As a vibrant destination with unparalleled natural beauty, rich culture, and adventure-filled experiences, Belize continues to captivate the hearts of travelers worldwide. Our team is excited to connect with travel professionals, share our unique offerings, and inspire new partnerships that will bring more visitors to our stunning shores.

Belize Takes Over New York...Again!

Belize and the BTB are bringing the beauty of the jewel to the Big Apple in a big way! Our Belize-branded double-decker buses traverse New York City's most iconic locations, including Times Square, SOHO, Grand Central Station, Union Square, Columbus Circle, and more.

This campaign promotes JetBlue's direct flights to Belize out of JFK, making it easier than ever for New Yorkers and visitors to escape to our tropical paradise.

The BTB asks if you see one of the buses to capture the moment, share it on social media, and tag!

Annual Holiday Gift Project!

The BTB, in partnership with the Florida Cruise and Caribbean Association (FCCA), spread holiday magic in Belize City through the Annual Holiday Gift Project! Once again, the children were thrilled to be part of this joyous celebration, brimming with laughter, excitement, and festive cheer.

This year's festivities took place at the picturesque House of Culture, where Santa Claus and his merry crew made a grand entrance straight from the Sun Princess cruise ship! They came bearing Christmas gifts, snacks, and a big dose of holiday entertainment. A total of 75 children joined in the fun, with music pumping from a DJ and plenty of giggles thanks to Ozzie the Clown.

An event like this doesn't happen without incredible teamwork. The BTB gives a huge thanks to our steadfast partner, the FCCA, for bringing this holiday tradition to Belize. They also extend gratitude to Premier Charters & Tours, Exotic Shore Excursions, Princess Cruises, Diamonds International and Chukka Belize Ltd. for their invaluable support in making the magic happen.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Minister of Agriculture Discusses Screwworm, Cattle Trade, and Market Access for Green Coconuts with Mexico's New Agriculture Minister

Continued from page 5

system for cattle, which uses tags and movement permits, Belize has implemented various measures as part of the national action plan. These include intense education and public awareness, on-farm surveillance, inspection certificates, and 24-hour quarantine at informal border points. Mexico commended Belize for its success and agreed to continue the close cooperation between the two countries to control the spread of the New World Screwworm.

The highlight of the meeting was Dr. Berdegué's issuance of a clear statement on Mexico's interest in purchasing cattle from Belize. Specifically, Dr. Berdegué stated, "Mexico is interested in importing from Belize every single head of cattle that is legally exported from Belize to Mexico and that complies with the technical protocols to ensure the sanitization standards. Everything that you can send us, we will receive it very gladly." In addition, Dr. Berdegué noted Mexico's interest in reducing the cost and technical barriers to the formal cattle trade to increase imports from Belize.

Accompanying Minister Mai to Mexico City were Hugh O'Brien, his Chief Advisor; Jaime Briceño, Belize's Trade Ambassador to Mexico; and Abram Garcia from the coconut private sector in Belize.

The Belizean delegation departed Belize on Sunday, December 8, and will return on Tuesday, December 10, 2024. (release)

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: PROPERTY

Pomona Village, Stann Creek District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties and vehicles. Sales currently running until 31st March 2025. Public Auction Sales will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties and vehicles are sold.

1. Lot No. 162 Pomona Village, Stann Creek District:

Lot No. 162 Pomona Village, Stann Creek District, the freehold property of Mr. Manuel Esquivel.

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

CONSULTANCY CONTRACT SIGNED FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION

Tertiary Care Teaching Hospital

On December 10, the Government of Belize and Dar Al Omran International Engineering Consulting Company (DAO) signed a US$1,634,981.27 (BZ$3,269,962.54) Consultancy Services Contract for the Design and Supervision of a Tertiary Level Teaching Hospital in Belmopan. Signing on behalf of the Government of Belize was the Financial Secretary, Mr. Joseph Waight, while the Managing Director, Mr. Yacoub Shubeilat, signed on behalf of DAO.

The responsibility of DAO will be to provide complete design and construction supervision services for the construction of a 150-bed hospital that will meet the standards and requirements of the Government of Belize and the Saudi Fund for Development.

Specifically, the consultancy will:

1. Provide architectural and engineering design for a 150-bed hospital complex in the Belmopan area.

2. Supervise the layout, construction, and landscaping of the hospital complex.

3. Ensure that the design and construction of the hospital complex is in accordance with the required standards and specifications.

On the 30th of May 2023, The Government of Belize (GoB) signed a loan agreement with the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), with counterpart funding, to finance the Tertiary Hospital in the Belmopan Area Project. The project includes the construction of a modern 150-bed teaching hospital in Belmopan, in keeping with GoB's 2023 – 2026 Medium Term Strategy to "…develop a social protection policy and strategy with the overarching objective of comprehensively addressing the needs of the poorest members of the society throughout their lifecycle, addressing social risks and vulnerabilities, and improving cross-sector coordination in the delivery of interlinked protection programs."

DAO's Technical and Financial proposal was ranked at the top of the 5 Saudi firms that applied for the consultancy. DAR AL OMRAN International Engineering Consultants is a multi-disciplinary architecture and engineering consulting firm with over 43 years of experience in the industry. Specializing in healthcare infrastructure, DAR AL OMRAN has delivered projects in more than 20 countries, including the construction of over 6,000 hospital beds and 2 million square meters of built-up area. DAO also has experience working with the Saudi Fund for Development in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Caribbean. With a focus on quality, innovation, and sustainability, DAR AL OMRAN is a trusted name in designing and implementing large-scale, complex healthcare facilities.

The contract with DAO is a 55-month consultancy, including:

1. Development and approval of the design, and associated services – 9 months

2. Supervision of construction – Period of construction 34 months

3. Defects Liabilities period - 12 months

Mr. Yacoub Shubeilat is accompanied by the DAO Director, Mr. Ghassan Rachid. The visit included meetings with the Minister, CEO, and Directors of the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW), as well as a site visit and meetings with the MOHW Belmopan Hospital Project Technical Team. The representatives also participated in a workshop with the teams from the MOHW and the Central Executing Unit, with whom they will be working closely on the project.(release)

Request for Expressions of Interest

Refurbishment of Armouries Belize

PROCUREMENT REFERENCE°: TD24.CA.TRF.002 BELIZE

CONSTRUCTION REFERENCE°: EoI 002/MAG-CA/202410/02_Belize

TITLE: Expression of Interest (EOI), for MAG [Belize] Refurbishment of Armouries [13th December 2024]

MAG (Mines Advisory Group), one of the world's leading humanitarian organizations providing conflict and armed violence-affected countries with a real chance for a better future, is implementing a Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) project with defence and security forces in Belize. We are working in partnership with CARICOM IMPACS in the Caribbean region to implement this project. Through notice, MAG invites Interested Parties (IP) to offer their services by making a submission as described in this Expression of Interest (EoI).

The purpose of the EOI is to identify interested and qualified contractors, who will be included in a shortlist of contractors prequalified to take part in the upcoming restricted tender process for refurbishment projects. More precise estimates of each lot will take place once Bills of Quantities and Specifications are developed for each structure and site. These will be available at the time of restricted tendering.

Eligibility and Qualification requirements include:

1. Evidence of company Registration
2. Evidence Company is up to date with payments of its tax obligations: Tax compliance certificate
3. Minimum of 3 years' experience in refurbishment works
4. Financial Capacity – Companies Financial statements for the last year and letter from financial institution that the company has liquidity in the form of cash availability and unused credit facilities or a line of credit
5. Organizational Capacity- provision of an organizational chart, CVs of Key Personnel and a list of equipment.

Expression of Interest can be obtained by visiting: www.maginternational.org/accountability/tenders and www.caricomimpacs.org/procurements

Interested applicants may obtain further information from: Rennie Mohan, Logistics Officer rennie.mohan@maginternational.org. Questions and responses will be collected and shared with all interested parties who submitted an Expression of Interest.

Expressions of Interest should be paper copy, scanned and emailed to the following address: tenders.caribbean@maginternational.org . Attachments can be divided into parts as needed. MAG reserves the right to request the paper hard copy of the submissions delivered to our office.

1.Start date of Expression of Interest: 13 December 2024

2.Deadline to request clarifications: 31 December 2024 at 4pm Belize time

3.Expression of Interest reception closes on: 15 January 2025 at 4pm Belize time

Agricultural Drone Pilotage Course Completed in Northern Belize

December 9, 2024 - The Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Investment, through its Investment Policy and Compliance Unit (IPCU), in collaboration with the Corozal Think Tank, DRTX Drones, Ministry of Agriculture, Corozal ITVET, Pesticides Control Board, the Department of Civil Aviation and the Corozal Town Council completed the 42-hour training titled "An Introductory Course to Agricultural Drone Pilotage in Belize."

This course, conducted by DRTX Drones Mexico from Quintana Roo, focused on safeguarding current and future drone assets while enhancing the use of agricultural drones in Belize to improve yields, reduce costs, and minimize pilot errors that could damage valuable resources. The course addressed the need to equip Belizean farmers with new skills, enhance the profitability of their operations, and modernize the agriculture sector in the Corozal and Orange Walk districts. Agricultural drones represent a transformative technology that improves the efficiency, accuracy, and profitability of their operations, and modernizes the agriculture sector.

Initially designed for 20 students, the course successfully trained 26 attendees. Participants came from various sectors, such as various farmers using drones, secondary and tertiary academic institutions in the Corozal District, the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI), Pesticide Control Board, Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Enterprise.

The training covered important topics such as drone application, air safety, crop monitoring, and mapping. Course participants were made aware of Civil Aviation regulations and the safe use of pesticides.

Present at the course's closing were Mr. Lincoln Blake, Director, Investment Policy and Compliance Unit, Ministry of Investment; Mrs. Thea Garcia- Ramirez, Chair of the Corozal Think Tank; Mr. Fred Roches, Ministry of Agriculture; Deputy Mayor Otoniel Riverol, Corozal Town Council; Mr. Jose Antonio Texocotitla Pinzon, Facilitator, DRTX Drones Team from Mexico.

By fostering skills and entrepreneurial development, the Ministry of Investment and the Corozal Think Tank aim to promote export-led growth in agriculture and other sectors. (release)

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER

"Just a dollar"

"This is what I am calling it... just a dollar.

Our entire community is shattered with the untimely death of the ten individuals. I personally only knew one of the individuals, Abigail Bradley. I cannot sit back and do nothing. The Gully Grill will use a portion of our sales from this week to assist these families with burial expense. The San Ignacio / Santa Elena Community has a population around thirty thousand people. I am not asking individuals to give 5 dollars...20 dollars or 50 dollars. Imagine if a lot of us "just give a dollar"...this can generate enough money to assist these mourning families.

Our gesture won't bring them back..our gesture won't subdue the pain but these families need

Continued on page 11

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Security Officer Grade III

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Security Team.

The Security Officer Grade III reports to Security Officers Grades I and II. The Grade III Officer enforces the Central Bank's rules and security procedures and performs assigned duties at different locations in the Central Bank. The Officer is required to work shifts and adhere to the Bank's policies, procedures, and directives.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure the security, safety, and well-being of personnel, visitors, and the premises.
- Provide excellent customer service.
- Adhere to all operating standards.
- Complete reports by recording observations, information, occurrences, and surveillance activities.
- Respond to emergencies to provide necessary assistance to employees and visitors.
- Performs other duties assigned from time to time.

The applicant should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A high school diploma from a recognized secondary school. Previous experience in the police, military, or security field, and small arms would be an asset.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge of modern security techniques systems; Knowledge of security equipment and law enforcement principles; Ability to perform tasks that require physical strength and agility, bending, climbing, and lifting heavy objects; Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Analytical Thinking, Diagnostic Information Gathering, Flexibility/Adaptability, Attention to Detail, Managing Performance, Stress-Tolerance, Attention to Communication, and Fostering Teamwork.

Submit the following documents by **Friday, 5 January 2025**:

- CBB Employment Application Form (available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Two (2) references (Both must be from a previous or current employer.)
- Certified copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other professional certificates
- Police Record

SCAN TO APPLY

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager
Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
Gabourel Lane, Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Security Officer Grade III- Security Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER

Continued from page 10

to know that San Ignacio/Santa Elena is filled with love, we are highly supportive and helpful. Just a dollar is all I ask. You can inbox me. I will personnaly drive to your home or business to pick up the dollar." **Community Member Passy Haylock**

In the end he gave $2, 140.50 to each family of the 10. The spirit that raised this is priceless.

Editor: All the San Ignacio community has been peacefully aggressive in making sure that the "untimely death" of the 10 Belizean does not go unnoticed. This effort helps families with just cost as nothing can replace their loved ones. This effort goes against the mainstream media grain of sensationalizing tragedy. The community comes together for the community.

This year traffic accidents have been too high. Numbers do not matter as ONE is too much. On another note: the murder count is down but similarly ONE murder is too much.

Belizean hearts poured out for the obvious immense tragedy on the Benque road and, just a few days ago, for the Ocean Academy sports team tragedy. This should be more than enough to implore us all to drive defensively and safely.

On December 12 all Roman Catholic Schools across the country had Casual Day to ask the community for a dollar per student that will go towards the families involved in both accidents.

"Let's drive with care for our lives and those of our fellow citizens" – Prime Minister John Briceño

#justadollar first phase of issuing out donations to the ten families and also survivors Janeli and Franks Burns were issued out today. Each person/family received $2140.50...which totals $25,680.

CELEBRATING
1 YEAR OF SERVICE
BELIZE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES LTD.
Fi We Belong!
ONE & A MILLION
ANNIVERSARY JACKPOT
Almost Time!!!...
TICKETS AVAILABLE TODAY!
TICKET SALE: Nov. 4th - Dec. 20th
DRAW DATE: 21st December, 2024
PURCHASE TICKETS FROM ANY SUB-AGENTS COUNTRYWIDE
COST: $ 5.00 PER TICKET
DON'T MISS YOUR SHOT AT THE GRAND PRIZE OF 1 MILLION DOLLARS!!!

CILTrust International Inc.

DOMES LIMITED # 000000476
("the Company")

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the company **DOMES LIMITED** (the Company) registered under the Belize Companies Act 2022 commenced dissolution as follows:

a) is in dissolution
b) commenced dissolution on the 3 rd day of December, 2024; and
c) **John Fitgerald Gillett** whose address is Main Road, Burrell Boom Village, Belize District, Belize is the Liquidator of the Company

CILTrust International Limited
Registered Agent

CILTrust International Inc.

DOMES LIMITED # 000000476
("the Company")

Notice is hereby given that the Company named **DOMES LIMITED** has been dissolved and struck off the Belize Companies & Corporate Affairs Registry with effect from the 3rd December, 2024.

CILTrust International Limited
Registered Agent

Christmas magic is alive and well in Corozal Bay

Thea takes Christmas Joy to Schools!

Mrs. Thea kicked off her 2024 Christmas School Visits with none other than Mickey, Minnie, and Santa Claus by her side! The holiday cheer spread through Nazarene Primary School, Assemblies of God Primary School and Kindergarten, Kiddy Kinder, and Mary Hill R.C. School.

Every child received a gift and a bag of goodies, and each school had one very lucky winner riding away on a brand-new bike!

The magic had only just begun to bring smiles and the Christmas spirit across Corozal Bay in the days leading up to Christmas Day 2024!

So on Day 2 Thea continued spreading holiday cheer with Mickey, Minnie, and Santa Claus at St. Paul's Anglican School, Our Lady of Guadalupe R.C. School, and St. Francis Xavier R.C. School!

Missing school was definitely not on the agenda for the wide-eyed happy and appreciative children…our future.

The smiles say it all—Christmas magic is alive and well in Corozal Bay! Stay tuned for more festive fun as the 2024 Christmas School Visit rolls on.

Min. Dolores relentless in aid to Flood Victims

"Assisting NEMO & MHD today to distribute relief packages to the many families who have been severely impacted by the flooding in Lord's Bank.

Big thanks to all staff involved and also to the BDF for their large trucks and other logistics assistance. We are here to continue helping our people.

Celebrating our BDF and their Excellence in Aviation!

FIRST FEMALE AIRCRAFT ENGINEER

The BDF proudly recognizes the achievements of Private Roberto Cu and Private Jensie Enamorado, our latest graduates from the prestigious Escuela de Formación de Suboficiales de la Fuerza Aérea Hondureña (EFSOFAH), renowned for training elite aeronautical technicians.

Following in the footsteps of our first graduate, LCpl Calles H in 2021, their success highlights the dedication of our soldiers, Private Enamorado also makes history as the BDF's FIRST trained female enlisted aircraft engineer.

We salute our soon-to-be-promoted Engineers for their commitment and hard work as they continue to make history for our nation and represent Belize on the international stage! (post)

Atlantic Bank

Holiday Opening Hours

The public is advised that all Atlantic Bank Branches and Drive-Thrus will be open for business from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Christmas Eve Wednesday, December 24, 2024.

All branches will reopen on Friday, December 27, 2024.

Christmas Magic Lit Up Pt. 2

OWTC & PM Briceño – Magic in Central Park

San Pedro's famous lights

Thea's Christmas Joy in Corozal Bay

Hon. Mahler bashes with Constituents

Mai & Santa in OW South

Corozal Town Council

Dangriga Tree Lit

Remembering
Miss Jane

December 12, 2018 to December 12, 2024 - (6 years)

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not the goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
was not spoken of the soul.

Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing leave behind us,
Footprints, on the sands of time.

(Excerpts from "A Psalm of Life" By: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)

Continue to rest in Perfect Peace Miss Jane.
You touched the lives of thousands of Belizeans.

PUP & #planBelize

STAY PAN TRACK

Prime Minister John Briceño & Belize City Council

"Reviewed their accomplishments & plans for the New Year 2025. We discussed their financial plans, projections, and the way forward."

Hon. Anthony Mahler, Pickstock, BTB and Tourism

In Seine Bight, improving the Belize product

Hon. Louis Zabaneh, and Mayor Mariano, Dangriga

Constant visitation and consultation with the people

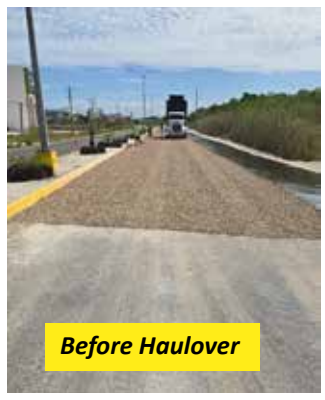
Hon. Oscar Requena, Toledo West and Rural Transformation

Receiving Water Well Rig from Taiwan friends

Hon. Julius Espat, MIDH

The constant rains have damaged our infrastructure so GOB is working everywhere.

Western Pines



Before Haulover

Santa Ana, Toledo

Hon. Ramon Cervantes, OW North

MIDH paving and upgrading streets Trial Farm

Conejo

Succotz

OW Town Council and OW Central

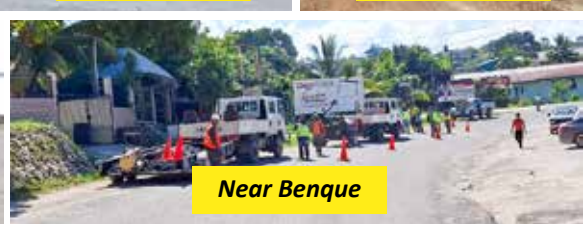
First Stage of ongoing sidewalks on Fonseca Street

Red Bank

Santa Martha

Sarteneja

Punta Gorda



Near Benque

'The Work Continues'

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

SOCIAL SECURITY: A CANDID CONVERSATION WITH CEO LEROY ALMENDAREZ

By Hilly Bennett

Last Tuesday, Dr. Leroy Almendarez, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of the Social Security Board (SSB) visited the studios of Vibes Media to share his views on the role of the Social Security's platform for social protection as well as the ongoing concern regarding the scheme.

Social Security, which can be considered the greatest social protection regarding the alleviation of poverty and coverage for the elderly, was established in Belize in 1981 and is considered a young system as many of the Latin American and Caribbean countries had introduced a social security pension system circa the 1950s. Time when the nationalist movement was birthed with the People's United Party steering the country towards independence and having control of its affairs implementing the Social Security scheme. Belize is the penultimate country followed by Grenada in 1983 to introduce the scheme in the Caribbean region.

In the article 'Belize Pension System', written by Waldo Tapia for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) the writer established that the primary goal of a pension system should be to provide adequate, affordable, sustainable, and robust retirement income. It proffers that Belize, like many countries in the Caribbean, faces the challenge, of both expanding pension coverage and guaranteeing financial sustainability involving equilibrium maintenance.

During the candid conversation with the CEO of SSB Doctor Leroy Almendarez, he explained since its inception, the scheme has not been static with the dynamism of population growth and the increase of the labour force the contributions have increased. He said, "We have to find new ways to make sure that it is sustainable because the number of benefits since 1981 has also increased." The Doc reminded the viewers that in 1981 George Price's vision of social security was for the injured and ageing population. However, Almendarez alluded that to date, the coverage encompasses maternity benefits, sick benefits, pension benefits, injury and invalidity benefits, and funeral grants. Hence, there must be assurance that the various claims are honoured as Doc stated "The people's money is protected." Waldo Tapia's IDB article written in 2015 suggested that "Three issues appear to be particularly critical in the Belizean pension system" with the most important one being financial stability and its fiscal implications.

Actuarial assessments have revealed that the long-term financial stability of the social security scheme has been under threat by the changing demographic structure of the population, informality, and the inclusion of new benefits into the system for the participants that were not projected at the inception of the system. Importantly, addresses the misconception of the need for the investment of the social security funds "being loaned out and why it needs to be invested. These are important things because all the payments do not come from contributions." He continued "If we're to rely solely on contributions at some point in time you'd have to start a conversation about we might need to raise the rate of contribution. Meaning you'll be paying more out of your pocket." The Doc punctuated that raising the rate is presently not being considered. However, if the payouts exceed the contributions it results in a scenario where the scheme reaches the "point of equilibrium", which is forecasted for 2029. If that happens the Minister of Social Security, who is Prime Minister John Briceño will have to be called upon for a bailout. Incidentally, the US has projected their point of equilibrium at 2030 and is already engaging the conversation with the government on what to do next. Since 2018, data has shown that payouts have increased by 43% from 89 million to an additional 16 million in payouts. Consequently, the rationale behind the investments made by Social Security. Previously, the Social Security Board relied solely on "Time Deposit "to ensure financial stability. That option has become unfeasible. Today the Social Security Board have been making sound investments, which include collateral, with the assurance of great returns on the investment portfolio. Therefore, the long-term sustainability of the system is secured and the point of equilibrium is pushed beyond the projection of 2029.

The other two issues of concern to Belize's pension scheme are low coverage and the institutional framework. Regarding the low coverage issue, Almendarez proffered the need for expansion of the coverage to include the self-employed sector in the scheme. Although voluntary participation of self-employed workers has been allowed since 2003, three-quarters of registered self-employed workers do not make contributions to the scheme. Regarding the issue of the institutional framework being a fragmented and complex situation of a variety of schemes creates, as Tapia suggests, inequity and additional financial pressures on the system. The other problem is the administrative cost of the social security system which is high. Nonetheless, the high operating expense is attributed to a well-developed infrastructure and the national reach, with nine branches across the country, and also the "lack of economies of scale due to the size of Belize's population and the fragmentation of the pension system." Also, the issue of non-compliance, which reflects 10%, notwithstanding that the monies for contribution had been deducted from the employees was raised by Dr. Almendarez. This results in the employee benefit claim being jeopardised.

The Doc emphasized that SSB's focus is more on expanding coverage and less on raising the rate of contributions. Contribution increased in January 2001 and July 2003 and then the recent reform phased in July 2019, January 2020 and July 2022. Importantly, the crux of the candid conversation with Dr. Leroy Almendarez, CEO of SSB is that the common man and woman can rest assured that their contribution to the social security pension scheme is being invested wisely and that their benefits continue to be secured.

IDB

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECT ENGINEER (INDIVIDUALS)

Institution: **Ministry of Finance**
Country: Belize
Type of Engagement: Individual Consultant (IC)
Deadline: **Friday, December 20th, 2024**; **10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize (GOB), with support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), has established a Central Executing Unit (CEU) within the Ministry of Finance as a structure to contribute to the effective delivery of the development goals outlined in Belize's Medium-Term Development Strategy, 2022-2026 (MTDS). The CEU is responsible for the coordination and implementation of various loan and grant projects and serves as the primary point of contact for all stakeholders involved in each project assigned to the CEU. This centralized unit provides an efficient and effective way to facilitate the management of the projects, ensuring that all phases are completed on time and on budget. Through the CEU it is envisaged that there will be enhanced multi-sectoral collaboration among stakeholders during project design and implementation. Furthermore, with the in-house procurement, financial, monitoring, evaluation and reporting expertise, the CEU should minimize project start up and learning curve delays in procedures and reporting requirements previously experienced due to lack of expertise in these areas.

The Ministry of Finance is now launching the process to fill a contractual position for the **Project Engineer**.

The Ministry of Finance invites eligible individuals to apply for the position of Project Engineer. For additional details, the required Application Template and Terms of Reference, can be obtained online at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ . Interested individuals should apply using the Application Template to demonstrate they have met the required qualifications and possess the relevant experience to perform the services.

The selection for this contractual position will be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 and the Government of Belize policies and best practices and is open to all eligible candidates as defined in the policies. The Consultants will be selected based on qualifications.

Qualified individuals should submit one (1) pdf file in English via e-mail to rpascascio.ceu@cpu.mof.gov.bz and/or two (2) hardcopies of their application to the address below clearly indicating the positions you are applying for and name of consultant.

The Deadline for submission is no later than **Friday, December 20th, 2024, by 10:00 a.m**. **(Local Belize Time)** No late submissions will be accepted. Hard copies of the application should be submitted to the following address:

Ruby Pascascio
Senior Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building, 2nd Floor
Belmopan City, Belize, Central America
Tel: 501-822-2152/2158
Email: rpascascio.ceu@cpu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: **Project Engineer -** Your name

SITI TAAK
WITH YOUR BELIZE CITY COUNCIL

Undoubtedly, vehicular accidents have been prevalent, especially the incidence of tragic motorcycle losses. This week's episode of SITI TAAK discussed road safety relating to riders of motorcycles.

This week's host Jermaine Hyde had a conversation with Councilor Edmund Kwan with the portfolio for Traffic Enforcement and Edgar Alvarez, Regional Automotive Commercial Manager at UNICOMER. Back on Tuesday 3rd September 2024 Mayor Bernard Wagner along with Eluide Miller, Councilor for Traffic Management and Edmund Kwan, Councilor for Traffic Enforcement, attended the signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Belize City Council (BCC) and AKT Motorcycles (Unicomer Belize).

The MOU was focused on enhancing road safety by bolstering enforcement measures, promoting proper road safety practices for motorcyclists and other commuters, This included educating the public through social media and media collaboration under the slogan 'Your Family Awaits You'. Alvarez in explaining the objective of the MOU said that there are three components which are reducing fatalities, fostering community engagement and supporting law enforcement. Alvarez said, "I think these are the three main objectives that can be detailed." Councilor Kwan added that Unicomer is actually assisting the Enforcement Department to let the general residents understand what the education campaign is about. Alvarez shared that part of the MOU is the provision of resources. Initially, it started with reflective raincoats, however, the major resource is the media campaign and sharing with the public what is road safety. Host Jermaine Hyde chimed in reminding the public of the three E's - Engagement, Education before Enforcement. Alvarez reasoned that Unicomer continues to engage its customers in the need to purchase the proper safety gear when the customer buys one of its line of motorcycles.

Importantly, to increase awareness and road safety, Unicomer will equip the Council's Enforcement Unit with additional resources, ensuring more effective regulation and enhancing officer safety. Mayor Wagner and the Belize City Council considers the partnership with AKT Motorcycles as a valuable one especially as it pertains to making Belize City's thoroughfares safer for everyone.

Clearly, it's all 'bout the people.

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS 2024
The State of the Nation is
stronger, more hopeful and more confident
than at any time in our 43 years.
HON. JOHN BRICEÑO
PRIME MINISTER OF BELIZE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Institution: **MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE,GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.**

Tender: **Consultancy to Update the National Wastewater Policy**

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Department of the Environment under the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change, invites suitable consultants to apply for the consultancy of revising and updating the Draft National Wastewater Policy for Belize.

The general overview of this consultancy is as follows:

I. To review and update the draft National Wastewater Policy to include but not limited to provisions for industrial and agricultural wastewater management.
II. To incorporate climate adaptation measures into the updated policy.
III. To ensure the updated policy aligns with international best practices and local regulatory requirements.

Few Qualifications & Experiences Required:

I. An advanced degree (Master of Laws (LLM)), or a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) with a specialty in Environmental Law, Environmental Governance, Public Policy, Water Resource Management, or related fields;
II. A **minimum** of five (5) years of professional experience in wastewater management, environmental policy, or related disciplines. ***(A reference from a past engagement is required)***

For full Terms of Reference which lists required Qualifications, description Services, Expected Outputs, and Submission Procedures, kindly request via email at procurement.asst@environment.gov.bz with a copy to procurement.officer@environment.gov.bz

Deadline for Submission: December 30th, 2024 , no later than 3:00 p.m.

INVITATION TO BID

Institution: **MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE,GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE.**

Tender: **SUPPLY OF GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY-MASS SPECTOMETRY LABORATORY EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES**

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Department of the Environment (DOE) within the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change, invites qualified and reputable companies to submit proposals for the **supply and delivery of GCMS laboratory equipment and accessories**.

Bidding Details:
The full bidding document, which includes detailed specifications of the required equipment and instructions for the submission process, can be obtained by sending a request to:

- **Email**: procurement.asst@environment.gov.bz
- **CC:** procurement.officer@environment.gov.bz

Deadline for Submission: **December 30, 2024, at 3:00 PM**

Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered. The Ministry reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without obligation or explanation.

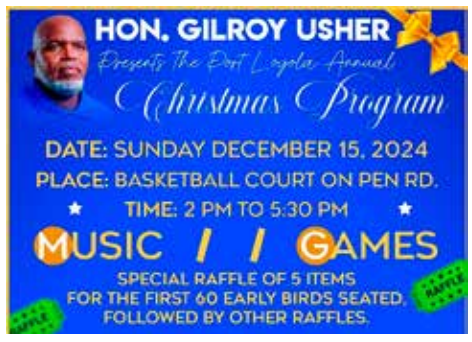
Collapsed House Replaced With New House in Port Loyola

On December 5, 2024, the yard at #4328 Faber's Rd Belize City was filled with happy faces as Hon. Gilroy Usher Area Representative for Port Loyola gave the keys for a new 'Mennonite' house to Miss Juanita Martin and her family.

The new house, which was funded by the government, became necessary after the original wooden house of Miss Marin suddenly collapsed as a result of a weak structure caused by Hurricane Lisa.

The house is complete with electrical wiring, bathroom facilities, partition, and ceiling. This was possible as a result of close collaboration between the Area Representative Hon. Gilroy Usher, and the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) through its supervisor Miss Marissa Alamilla.

On receiving the keys to her new home Miss Juanita Martin expressed sincere thanks to her Area Representative Hon. Gilroy Usher and all other persons, who assisted in making it possible.


HON. GILROY USHER
Presents The Port Loyola Annual
Christmas Program
DATE: SUNDAY DECEMBER 15, 2024
PLACE: BASKETBALL COURT ON PEN RD.
TIME: 2 PM TO 5:30 PM
MUSIC / / GAMES
SPECIAL RAFFLE OF 5 ITEMS
FOR THE FIRST 60 EARLY BIRDS SEATED,
FOLLOWED BY OTHER RAFFLES.

Invitation for Bids

Belize Water Services Limited

Third Water Project
National Competitive Bidding (NCB)
BWSL/BIF-26-1868-01

1. The ***Government of Belize*** *will be receiving* financing from the ***Caribbean Development Bank*** **toward the cost of the project "Third Water Project"** and intends to apply the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for "***Supply and Install Steel Enclosure Building for San Pedro Reverse Osmosis Plant".***

2. ***Belize Water Services Limited*** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the***:***

"Supply and Install Steel Enclosure Building for San Pedro Reverse Osmosis Plant"

3. Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** procedures specified in the Caribbean Development Bank's *Policies* and is open to all eligible bidders.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain an e-copy of the bidding document by making a request to the address found at the bottom of this advertisement.

5. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before ***3:00 pm, 24th January 2025***. Electronic bidding ***shall not*** be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at **3*:15 pm on 24th January 2025.***

6. All bids to be accompanied by a Bid Security, as specified in the bidding document, and must be delivered to the address below by ***3:00 pm local time on 24th January 2025***.

7. The address referred to above is:
Email: rce@bwsl.com.bz
Attention: Ms. Jahnina Reyes,
Procurement Specialist
Belize Water Services Limited
7 Central American Blvd.
Belize City
Belize
+501-222-4757

**********END**********

UNITED NATIONS TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS CONFERENCE 2024

BY NARDA GARCIA

Chief Executive Officer in The Office of The Prime Minister And The Ministries of Investment and Civil Aviation.

DECEMBER 12, 2024

Greetings from Belize!

Belize is located in Central America, and is bordered to the north by Mexico, to the south and west by Guatemala, and to the east by the Caribbean Sea. We are a diverse country with various cultures and languages. Belize is home to several rain forests, and the second longest barrier reef in the world (Mesoamerican Barrier Reef) which is also a UNESCO world heritage site.

It has been 3 years of Belize achieving one of the largest debt-for-nature swaps in the world. In November 2021, Belize signed the Blue Bond Agreement, reducing the country's debt and charting a way forward to finance the protection of our marine resources. It provided immediate economic relief to Belize with a debt-to-GDP reduction of 12% in exchange for GOB to protect a significant part of Belize's oceans and an estimated USD$180 million towards conservation on the ground over 20 years. The Blue Bonds is an ambitious plan that aligns with national and international commitments to scale up ocean conservation around the world and address urgent biodiversity losses through improved ocean management.

The agreement calls on Belize to complete eight milestones by 2029. To date, the Government of Belize has completed the first four of eight milestones contained in Belize's conservation commitments under the Blue Bonds agreements. Belize has delivered on conservation milestones one, two, three and four by protecting 25% of its total ocean space, designating all existing national lands within the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System as mangrove reserves, and launching the marine spatial planning process for the development of the Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan. Many international conservation groups have lauded Belize in keeping with its international obligations. In addition to having 36% of its terrestrial space already in conservation, Belize by 2026 will achieve the 30 X 30 international commitment.

Belize's obligations to environmental protection specifically our ocean space through our Blue Bond commitments, and future consideration to continue protecting our green spaces to contribute to the global Climate Change initiatives has made Belize even more vulnerable to exposure of litigation through its International Investment Agreements (IIAs).

Belize has recognised that investors can use investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) via its IIAs to resist environmental protection and climate change measures. Governments that take action to transition away from fossil fuels face the risk of legal challenges from foreign investors.

Hence, IIAs can constrain country's ability to implement environmental protection and climate change measures. To address this and other challenges, Belize has prepared a draft Modern Model Bilateral Investment Treaty aimed at reforming to:

- **Make them climate-responsive by ensuring that sustainable and low-carbon investments are given special protection.**
- **Protect the right to regulate by safeguarding the right and duty of states to regulate in the public interest.**
- **Promote sustainable investment by including provisions to promote and facilitate sustainable investment.**
- **Require investors to compensate victims of environmental damage.**
- **Recognize environmental protection as an IIA treaty objective**

Belize has signed BITs with 8 countries, namely Austria, Cuba, El Salvador, Italy, the Netherlands, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom. It also has a Partial Scope Agreement with Guatemala on a number of goods and investment provisions. In addition to these BITs, Belize has signed 10 Treaties as part of CARICOM with different investment provisions. These include: CARIFORUM States - United Kingdom EPA (2019), CARICOM - United States TIFA (2013), CARIFORUM - EC EPA (2008), CARICOM-Costa Rica FTA, CARICOM Single Market, CARICOM-Cuba Cooperation Agreement, Cotonou Agreement (2000), CARICOM - Dominican Republic FTA (1998), CARICOM-Venezuela FTA, and the CARICOM Treaty.

The Ministry of Investment, through its Investment Policy and Compliance Unit (IPCU), had first started its review to modernize its BITs with the Directorate of the CARICOM Single Market and Trade (CSMT) of the CARICOM Secretariat by getting advice, information, and contacts of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). UNCTAD has been helping several countries to modernize their BITs. Belize has begun to have a better understanding of ways to go about modernizing the country's BITs with the assistance of UNCTAD and, with this, has prepared a modern model BIT. UNCTAD conducted a workshop to Belize's relevant regulators to explain the importance and details of a modern model BIT.

Belize focused on mainly eight general provisions that are considered most in need of reform in its existing BITs:

a) **Definition of investment:** The current BITs use an asset-based definition of investment which may include every kind of asset, the new model adopts an enterprise-based definition of investment, thereby narrowing it to FDI.

b) **Definition of investor:** The model also includes limitations on the definition of investor which will help eliminate the risk of abuse using "mailbox" companies, treaty shopping, and free riding by investors not conceived to be beneficiaries of treaty advantages.

c) **National treatment:** Extending treaty protections and advantages exclusively to those foreign assets that bring concrete benefits to the host country is one way of targeting investments conducive to sustainable development.

d) **Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) treatment:** The MFN treatment provision has been completely dropped or omitted from the new model. By virtue of the MFN clause in a BIT, a foreign investor can 'import' more favourable protection provisions contained in other BITs and use them to bring claims before arbitration tribunals.

e) **Fair and equitable treatment:** To limit this possibility and curtail abuse of Fair and Equitable Treatment (FET), the new model BIT carefully clarifies the meaning and delineates the scope of the FET. This abuse can especially be exploited by "mailbox" companies, treaty shopping, and free riding by investors not conceived to be beneficiaries of treaty advantages, the model BIT contains a section detailing investors' obligations and responsibilities.

f) **Full protection and security:** the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) system requires an investor to exhaust all local remedies (judicial and administrative) before initiating international arbitration.

g) **Expropriation:** The model BIT makes a change to the calculation of interest for compensation where it is not calculated in compound interest but simple interest.

h) **Public policy exceptions:** The new model gives space for the country's right to regulate and includes a long list of measures that will be completely exempted under the Treaty. These include measures related to taxation, government procurement, public health and safety, environmental protection and financial stability.

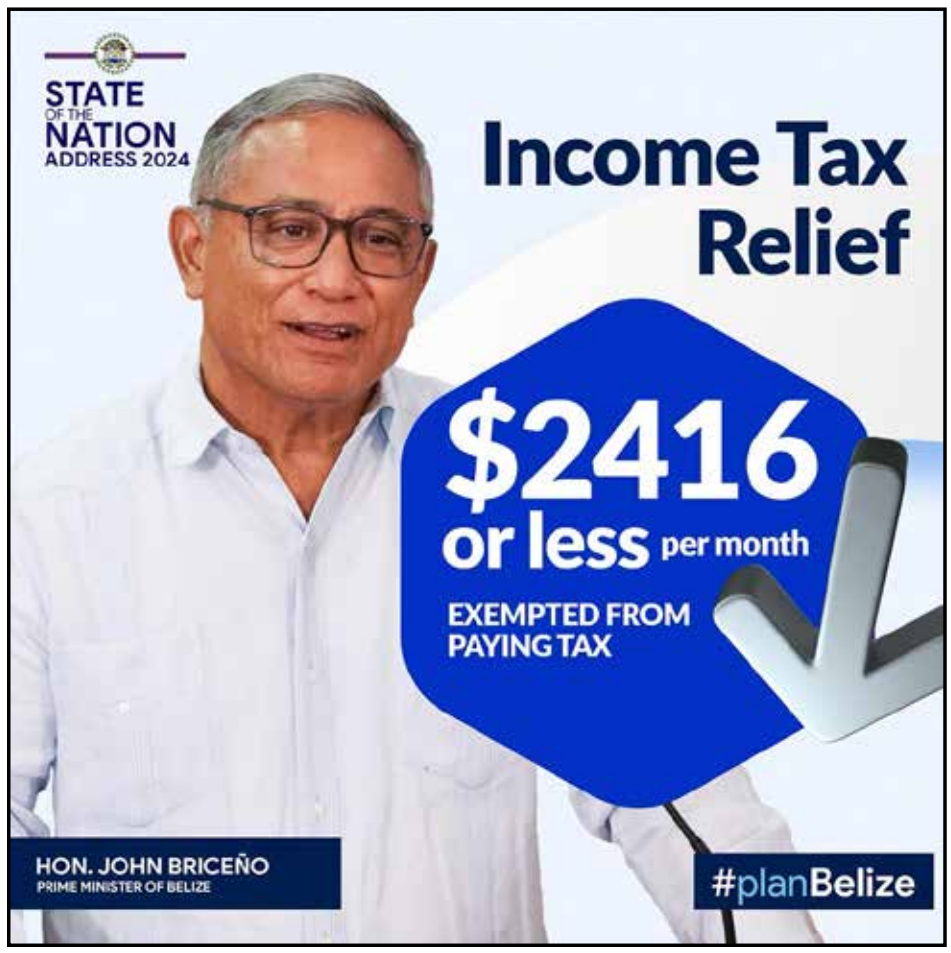
Belize: Belize recently developed a new model BIT with technical support from UNCTAD.

UNCTAD has been helping several countries to modernize their BITs. Belize has begun to have a better understanding of ways to go about modernizing the country's BITs with the assistance of UNCTAD and with this it prepared a modern model BIT. UNCTAD conducted a workshop to Belize's relevant regulators to explain the importance and details of a modern model BIT.

Belize has started with a general assessment of its old-generation BITs, and it is taking into consideration recent revised BITs from other judications to identify areas for reform. In its review, Belize has been using UNCTAD's International Investment Agreements (IIAs) Reform Accelerator which focuses on eight provisions commonly found in IIAs that are in most need of reform. The reforms remain in line with the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs) by providing SDG-oriented policy options and consider each country's right to regulate IIAs.

A modernized BIT allows updating of definitions and scopes of key terms and protections and also allows the addition of provisions that strengthen each contracting state's "right to regulate"; that is, giving the state more powers to regulate industries or achieve certain policy objectives without the risk of raising disputes with foreign investors. Stronger rights to regulate have already been added to several renewed BITs between other countries.

The modern model BIT will serve as a basis for Belize to (re)negotiate BITs and other regional investment agreements with updated best practices in BITs. Belize's objective to sustainable development and commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals drives us to ensure that our investment policies are aligned with these. Whilst BITs are still proposed to Belize by some countries that want to partner with it in investments, it must be noted that BITs are not the most important tool to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Some countries have or are in the process of terminating its BITs regime and replacing it with new domestic legislation which provides no recourse to any international arbitration.



Belize Represented at Cross-Regional Forum Intellectual Property and Women's Entrepreneurship

The Attorney General's Ministry and the Belize Intellectual Property Office (BELIPO) proudly announce that Belize was represented at the Cross-Regional Forum on Intellectual Property and Women's Entrepreneurship, convened for Caribbean and African countries. The forum, organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in collaboration with the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO), was held in Kingston, Jamaica, on December 5-6, 2024.

Belize was represented by the Deputy Registrar of BELIPO, alongside three notable Belizean Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs): Dr. Adriani Coleman, owner of Digital Learning and Pedagogical Solutions, Ronelli Requena, owner of Zayvha Sarai, and Jolie Pollard, owner of Ikooma. Their participation underlines Belize's commitment to fostering innovation and empowering women entrepreneurs through effective intellectual property strategies.

The forum served as a platform to discuss initiatives aimed at promoting the gender perspective in the IP system and featured presentations from various experts. Key topics covered included unique selling propositions for business success, integrating IP in entrepreneurship, and marketing strategies in e-commerce.

The representatives from Belize engaged in dynamic discussions and networking sessions designed to enhance understanding of the IP landscape and explore collaborative opportunities for future development. (release)

CALL
280-8385 or
EMAIL:
belizetimesadvertisement@yahoo.com
To place advertisement in the Belize Times Newspaper

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Construction of Drainage and Irrigation Scheme

Country: Belize
Project: Resilient Rural Belize Programme
Assignment Title: Construction of Drainage and Irrigation Scheme
Reference No.: RRB.W.11

The Government of Belize through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Green Climate Fund ("GCF") towards the cost of Resilient Rural Belize Programme and intends to apply part of the proceeds to the works for which this Request for Bids (RFB) is issued.

The works consist of: Construction of Drainage and Irrigation System at Valley of Peace, Cayo District as follows:

IRRIGATION:

1 Water Supply Infrastructure:
- Transfer Pump: 6" mobile self-priming trash pump with 44–55 HP diesel engine, trailer-mounted, with a capacity of at least 1,000 GPM.
- Sluice Gates: Stainless steel, manually actuated 30" x 30" gates, mounted vertically for water control.
- Containment Dikes: Two earthen dike structures (4 feet high, 20 feet wide), compacted in layers and reinforced with rip-rap for erosion resistance, incorporating a 24" HDPE culvert.

2 Canal Rehabilitation:
- Excavation and reshaping of an existing canal with erosion control, using structural methods like grouted rip-rap or natural methods (planting bamboo) for stabilization.

3 Irrigation Materials for Farmland:
- Supply and installation of SCH. 40 PVC piping (3" and 2" diameter) with adapters, bends, valves, and caps.
- Sprinkler heads suitable for large areas and portable dual-fuel pumps for irrigation across 25 plots.

4 Monitoring and Additional Equipment:
- Hydrologic Gauges: Installed along banks for water level monitoring.
- Soil Moisture Probes: Digital probes with water resistance for soil moisture measurement.
- Solar Well Pump: Submersible pump system, including solar panels, charge controller, and necessary mounting for deep-well water extraction.

DRAINAGE:

1. Earthen Drains:
- Excavation of earthen drains with specified dimensions:
  - o Drain B with 1 ft. depth, 2 ft. height, and 3 ft. top width.
  - o Drain B with 2 ft. depth, 3 ft. height, and 6 ft. top width.
- Sloped at a minimum of 0.25% as per design requirements.
- All debris and unsuitable material to be disposed of within a 3-mile radius.

2. Detention and Retention Ponds:
- Detention Pond #1 (Rehabilitation): Cleaning and rehabilitation of the existing pond to integrate it into the drainage system, including vegetation and mud removal. Construction of outlets to the lagoon.
- Detention Pond #2 (New): Excavation of a new pond measuring 50 ft. x 75 ft. x 5 ft., with an outlet to the lagoon.
- Retention Pond: Excavation of a retention pond measuring 80 ft. x 275 ft. x 5 ft., including outlet construction to the lagoon.

3. Outlet Channels:
- Excavation of channels connecting pond outlets to the lagoon system, with appropriate slopes and bank stability.
- Reed-bed channels lined with geotextile fabric for erosion control, filled with clean, non-reactive rocks (4 to 6 inches in diameter) for stability.
- Planting of robust aquatic vegetation, such as Bullrush, to promote phytoremediation and stabilize the channels according to wetland best practices.

4. Roadside Drainage:
- Excavation and clearing of roadside drain along the main road to improve stormwater flow, with debris disposal within a 3-mile radius.

Qualification of the Bidder: to qualify for award of the contract, a Bidder shall meet the following minimum qualifying criteria:

a) General Experience as a Contractor: At least 5 years' experience in industrial/earthworks/Drainage/Irrigation-related construction locally;

b) Specific Experience as a contractor: At least one works' contract of similar nature, size and complexity equivalent to the works included in this Invitation completed within the last five years (to comply with this requirement, works cited should be at least 80% complete).

c) The contractor must prove access to the following equipment, with stated production capacity and minimum age of equipment:

Item No.	Name of equipment and production capacity	Capacity	No of equipment	Age (max)
1	Excavator (long reach: 50 – 60 ft.)	36" - 48" bucket	1	10
2	Excavator (Standard reach)	24" - 36" bucket (winged)	2	10
3	Backhoe	0.5 - 1 cubic yard bucket	1	10
4	Dump trucks	15-ton	3	20

d) The required key contractor personnel profile and years of experience are listed in the table below; The contractor must provide the following key staff and attach their respective CVs:

	Title	Years of General Construction Experience	Minimum Specific experience
1	Project Manager	10 (including earthworks)	Having completed at least one similar assignment in the past 10 years.
2	Site Foreman	5	Having completed at least one similar assignment in the past 5 years

e) Evidence of access to financial resources to successfully complete the works i.e.access to cash, letter from a bank, credit institutions, or other financial intermediary, supporting the availability of liquid financial resources in the amount of BZD167,000.00.

f) Average annual turnover over the past 3 years (2023, 2022, 2021), supported by financial statements, equivalent to: BZD1,200,000.00.

Completion Date: the works shall be completed as per the following completion schedule: Six (6) months.

The bidder must state exact completion time in its bid supported by its proposed construction schedule for the works.

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment/Resilient Rural Belize Programme now invites construction firms to submit bids for the construction of works as outlined in the Request for Bids (RFB) documentation. Contractor/s will be selected using the national competitive bidding (NCB) method in accordance with the IFAD Procurement Handbook accessible at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. The NCB process will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.

Bidders interested in submitting a bid, shall request the full bidding document by sending an e-mail, giving full contact details of the bidder, to the following point of contact. This will ensure that the bidders receive the full bidding document (RFB) as well as updates regarding this procurement procedure.

Resilient Rural Belize Programme
Attn: Lemuel Palacio, Senior Procurement Officer
Hummingbird Highway
National Agriculture Showgrounds,
City of Belmopan, Belize
E-mail: lpalacio.rrb@med.gov.bz
Copied to: Nadia Vernon, nvernon.rrb@med.gov.bz

Please note that bids can be submitted either physically or electronically. In submitting a physical bid, the bidder must submit one (1) original and 2 copies, sealed in two separate inner envelopes, enclosed in one outer envelope, sealed and marked as per ITB 21.1 & 21.2, and addressed to the address stated above. In addition, one copy of the bid shall be an electronic copy saved on a flashdrive also included in the sealed outer envelope. Electronic Bids shall be submitted by email, as a password protected, single attachment, in pdf format, by the deadline and to the email address stated above. Full details are provided in the complete RFB document.

The deadline for submission of bids shall be no later than **January 30, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** local time at the address above.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CONSULTING SERVICES

RE-PUBLICATION OF NOTICE ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 15, 2024

Country: *Belize*
Project: *Water and Sanitation Program for Rural Areas*
Loan/Credit/Grant No.: *BL-L1045 (5753/OC-BL)*
Institution: *Belize Social Investment Fund*
Abstract: *National consultancy to prepare a technical study on the Water Demand for the 21 villages and recommend size of disinfection equipment*
Contract/Bid No.: *BL-L1045-P00017*
Deadline: *January 6, 2025*

The *Government of Belize (GOBZ)* has received financing from the *Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*, towards the cost of the *Water and Sanitation Program for Rural Areas*, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") for *National consultancy to prepare a technical study on the Water Demand for the 21 villages and recommend size of disinfection equipment* is to conduct a water demand study for 21 rural villages across Northen, Central, Western and Southern Regions of Belize to determine the current and future water demand to inform the effective planning for improvements of the 21 water systems. The Study will include water demand projections and modeling to provide recommendations for water supply, sustainable management strategies, and sizing of disinfection equipment.

Scope of Services

1. To observe and analyze current consumption patterns across the 21 targeted villages utilizing water metering data from the installed bulk meters at each water station for a 2-month period.
2. To analyze and determine the current water demand across the applicable sectors such as domestic, industrial, agricultural and commercial for each targeted village.
3. To project future water demand under different growth and climate scenarios.
4. To identify key factors influencing water demand and assess potential demand management strategies.
5. To provide recommendation for the sizing of the disinfection equipment based on the water demand modeling and analysis results for each village.

The *BSIF* now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

From the expressions of interest received, the Executing Agency will prepare a short list comprising not fewer than five (5) and not more than eight (8) eligible firms.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15 and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the policies.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture to enhance their qualifications. For the purpose of establishing the short list, the nationality of a firm is that of the country in which it is legally incorporated or constituted and in the case of Joint Venture, the nationality of the firm appointed to represent it.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the *CQS* method set out in the Consultant Policies. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours of ***8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday (Local Belize Time), except on Public Holidays.***

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by ***January 6, 2025 at 2:00 p.m***. *The submission should include the name and address of the applicant and shall be clearly marked "****Expression of Interest – Consultancy for the Development of a Water Demand Study for Rural Belize****."*

Attention:
Procurement Officer
Belize Social Investment Fund
Building C, 4253 Hummingbird Highway
Belmopan, Belize
Telephone: 822-0239 or 822-0508/9
E-mail: kyla.cho@sifbelize.org
C: carlos.tun@sifbelize.org

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that **Santiago Campos** is applying for a **Publican General Liquor License** to be operated at **"Di Beer Stop"** located on Fonseca Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Roxana C. Nugent** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Roxy's Restaurant Lounge"** located at San Lorenzo Housing Site, Orange Walk Town, Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jhendra M. Chawla** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"JC Club"** located at # 36 Bze/Czl. Road, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Hilton Crawford** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"La Enramada Restaurant"** located at # 5 Gristock Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Elsa M. Esquivel** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Elsa Vegetable Shop"** located in Trail Farm Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bowen & Bowen Limited** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz Store"** located on Boundary Road, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bowen & Bowen Limited** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz Store"** located on Palmar Road, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bowen & Bowen Limited** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz Store"** located on Santa Elena Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bowen & Bowen Limited** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz Store"** located on San Antonio Road, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bowen & Bowen Limited** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz Store"** located on Yo Creek Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bowen & Bowen Limited** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz Store"** located on Cinderella Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bowen & Bowen Limited** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz Store"** located in Trail Farm Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bowen & Bowen Limited** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz Store"** located on San Lorenzo Road, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bowen & Bowen Limited** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz Store"** located in Guinea Grass Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Arminia Duran** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"D Store"** located at # 53 Stadium Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Guoli Chen** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"White House Restaurant"** located on Fonseca Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Marivel E. Mercado** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Estenia Shop"** located in Cotton Tree Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Alfonso Maas** is applying for a **Night Club Liquor License** to be operated at **"Restaurante Las Estrellas"** located in Cotton Tree Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Alfonso Maas** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Bar La Pipa"** located in Cotton Tree Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jose L. Aldana** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Aldana Mini Vegi's Shop"** located on Costa Rica Ext., Belmopan City, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Cyril S. Gillett** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Twintown Sip And Ride"** located on Far West St. S.I. Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Enna A. Orrego** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Ebenezer Sweet Little Things"** located at # 6123 Iguana Street, Belmopan City, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Dora S. Escalante** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Dora's Cool Spot"** located on Princess Diana Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

UK OPENS PRE-TRAVEL REQUIREMENT TO NON-EUROPEAN VISITORS

The UK Government is introducing Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA). Citizens of Belize and many other non-European countries who visit the UK for holidays, short term study, business trips of less than 6 months or transit to another destination will need an ETA from 8 January 2025. They can apply from today, 27 November 2024.

Eligible visitors should apply for their ETA through the UK ETA app, which is quick and simple to use and enables most applicants to receive a decision in hours. Visitors can also apply on GOV.UK if they do not have access to a smartphone. The application must be made before travelling.

An ETA costs £10 (approximately BZ$25-30) and the average application time is around ten minutes. An ETA permits multiple journeys and lasts for two years or until the holder's passport expires – whichever is sooner. Once granted, ETAs are digitally linked to a traveller's passport and allow for stays of up to six months at a time – including both short trips and more extended stays.

An ETA is not a visa, it is a digital permission to travel. By the end of 2025, all travellers to the UK – except British and Irish citizens – will need permission to travel in advance through either an ETA or an eVisa. This includes if they are transiting through a UK airport on route to another destination.

Nationals of Belize wishing to enter the UK for work, long term study or to live will continue to need to apply for the relevant entry clearance or visa, not an ETA. Citizens of countries that currently require an evisa to visit the UK, such as Honduras and Jamaica, will continue to need one.

To ensure the smooth implementation of a digitised border, the UK Government continues to work closely with the travel industry, including airline, maritime and rail carriers, and is delivering a communications campaign to reach visitors about the steps they need to take before they travel to the UK.

Electronic travel is a major step forward in digitising and streamlining the UK border. The roll-out of ETAs means visitors can benefit from smoother, easier travel to the UK for short trips. ETAs will enhance security through new technology and make the UK border more efficient, preserving the UK's appeal as a dynamic, diverse, and exciting destination to visit.

UK Minister for Migration and Citizenship, Seema Malhotra MP, said: "This expansion of ETA is a significant step forward in delivering a border that's efficient and fit for the digital age. "Through light-touch screening before people step foot in the UK, we will keep our country safe while ensuring visitors have a smooth travel experience." (release)

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Construction of Packing and Storage Facilities in 4 Lots

Country: Belize
Project: Resilient Rural Belize Programme
Assignment Title: Construction of Packing and Storage Facilities in 4 Lots
Reference No.: RRB.W.13

The Government of Belize through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Green Climate Fund ("GCF") towards the cost of Resilient Rural Belize Programme and intends to apply part of the proceeds to the works for which this Request for Bids (RFB) is issued.

The works, and the contract/s expected to be awarded, are divided into the following lots:

Lot	Group	Location	Facility	Qty	Dimensions	Design	Annex
1	Northern Sustainable Agro-Producers	Xaibe and Patchakan Villages, Corozal District	Sorting Shed	1	16' x 20'	#4	IXa
			Solar Tunnel Dryer	1	16' x 20'	#5	IXb
	Concepcion Vegetable Farmers	Concepcion Village, Corozal District	Packing and Storage Unit (with Cold Storage)	1	25' x 42'	#6	IXc
2	Orange Walk Bee Keepers Coop Society Ltd.	PetVille, Orange Walk District	Packing and Storage Unit	1	25' x 42'	#3	IXd
	New River Coop Society Ltd.	San Carlos Village, Orange Walk District	Packing and Storage Unit (with Cold Storage)	1	25' x 42'	#7	IXe
3	Los Buenos Amigos Coop Society Ltd.	Trio Village, Stann Creek District	Packing and Storage Unit	1	10' x 25'	#1	IXf
4	Valley of Peace Farmers Coop Society Ltd	Valley of Peace Village, Cayo District	Packing and Storage Unit	1	25' x 32'	#2	IXg
	Maya Green Growers Coop Society Ltd.	San Antonio Village, Cayo District	Packing and Storage Unit	1	25' x 32'	#2	IXg
	Seven Miles Farmers Association	Seven Miles Village, Cayo District	Packing and Storage Unit	1	10' x 25'	#1	IXf
	Cooperativo el Progresso en Desarollo	Seven Miles Village, Cayo District	Packing and Storage Unit	1	10' x 25'	#1	IXf

Qualification of the Bidder: A Bidder shall meet the following minimum qualifying criteria:

a) General Experience as a Contractor: At least 5 years' experience in industrial/commercial buildings construction locally;
b) Specific Experience as a contractor: At least one works' contract of similar nature, size and complexity equivalent to the works included in this Invitation, per lot (at least one contract per lot offered), completed within the last five years (to comply with this requirement, works cited should be at least 80% complete).
c) The contractor must prove access to the following equipment (individual equipment per lot offered, multiples if offering more than one lot), with stated production capacity and year of manufacture:

Item No.	Name of equipment and production capacity	Capacity	No of equipment	Year of manufacture
1	Suitable scaffolding for working	at heights above 5 feet	1	N.A
2	Generator (suitable to run power tools)	with minimum capacity of 1000 watts	1	N.A
3	Cement mixer	with minimum capacity of ½ cubic yard	1	N.A
4	Dump truck	with minimum capacity of 5 tons	1	N.A

d) The contractor must provide the following key staff and attach their respective CVs:

	Title	Minimum years of General Construction experience	Minimum Specific experience
1	Project Manager/Superintendent	5	having completed at least one similar assignment over the last 5 years
2	Site Foreman	5	having completed at least one similar assignment over the last 5 years

e) Evidence of access to financial resources to successfully complete the works i.e. access to cash, letter from a bank, credit institutions, or other financial intermediary, supporting the availability of liquid financial resources in the amount of:

- Lot 1: BZD68,000.00
- Lot 2: BZD72,000.00
- Lot 3: BZD17,000.00
- Lot 4: BZD94,000.00

Access to financial resources specified above per lot offered, with combined sums for multiple lots.

f) For each lot, average annual turnover over the past 3 years (2023, 2022, 2021), supported by financial statements, equivalent to:

- Lot 1: BZD245,000.00
- Lot 2: BZD260,000.00
- Lot 3: BZD60,000.00
- Lot 4: BZD340,000.00

Completion Date: the works shall be completed as per the following completion schedule from the date of signature of the contract (schedules for lots are independent and cannot be accumulated for multiple lots):

Lot 1: 3 months (12 weeks)
Lot 2: 3 months (12 weeks)
Lot 3: 3 months (12 weeks)
Lot 4: 3 months (12 weeks)

The bidder must state the exact completion time in its bid supported by its proposed construction schedule for each lot.

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment/Resilient Rural Belize Programme now invites construction firms to submit bids for the construction of works as outlined in the Request for Bids (RFB) documentation. Contractor/s will be selected using the national competitive bidding (NCB) method in accordance with the IFAD Procurement Handbook accessible at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. The NCB process will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.

Bidders interested in submitting a bid shall request the full bidding document by sending an e-mail, giving full contact details of the bidder, to the following point of contact. This will ensure that the bidders receive the full bidding document (RFB) as well as updates regarding this procurement procedure.

Resilient Rural Belize Programme
Attn: Lemuel Palacio, Senior Procurement Officer
Hummingbird Highway
National Agriculture Showgrounds,
City of Belmopan, Belize
E-mail: l**palacio.rrb@med.gov.bz**
Copied to: Nadia Vernon, **nvernon.rrb@med.gov.bz**

Please note that bids can be submitted either physically or electronically. In submitting a physical bid, the bidder must submit one (1) original and 2 copies, sealed in two separate inner envelopes, enclosed in one outer envelope, sealed and marked as per ITB 21.1 & 21.2, and addressed to the address stated above. In addition, one copy of the bid shall be an electronic copy saved on a flash drive also included in the sealed outer envelope. Electronic Bids shall be submitted by email, as a password protected, single attachment, in pdf format, by the deadline and to the email address stated above. Full details are provided in the complete RFB document.

The deadline for submission of bids shall be no later than **January 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** local time at the address above.

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

COMMERCE BIGHT ROAD UPGRADING PROJECT

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH), intends to pave the Commerce Bight Road in the Stann Creek District using Double Bituminous Surface Treatment (DBST).

Provided there are no delays, construction is expected to start within a month. The MIDH hereby invites interested contractors in the civil works to be part of this bidding process.

The Project is being implemented by the MIDH, Project Execution Unit (PEU). An Engineering Coordinator within the PEU will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project activities.

The Scope of Works includes:

- Preparation of subgrade layer
- Placement of subbase and basecourse layers
- Drainage improvements
- Paving of the road using Double Bituminous Surface Dressing Treatment (DBST)

Consideration will be given to local firms who have qualified extensive experience in road construction of a similar size and complexity.

Minimum Qualification Criteria:

- General Construction Experience: 10 Years
- Specific Construction Experience in application of DBST
- Contract Management Experience: 5 Years
- Construction Experience in a Project of Similar Size and Complexity (one)
- Access to Line of Credit: $200,000.00
- Average annual turnover of minimum: Bz$300,000.00
- Qualified registered Engineer: 5 years' experience

Effective **Monday 16 December 2024**, Bidding Documents are available at a cost of **Bz$500.00** from the address below.

Bidders shall submit proposals (one original and one hard copy) in a sealed envelope to the address below. The sealed envelope containing each submission must include the name and address of the applicant.

A Site Visit will be conducted on **Thursday 19 December 2024** at **10:00am**. Bidders shall congregate at the Drums of our Fathers Roundabout (Dangriga Town).

All Bidding Documents properly completed should reach the office of the Chief Engineer at the address below no later than **Monday 30 December 2024** at **10:00 am**. The Ministry shall not accept responsibility for any costs incurred by the applicants.

Attention: Mr. Evondale Moody
Chief Engineer / Engineering Coordinator
Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Power Lane
Belmopan
BELIZE C.A.

Tel: +501-828-5220
Email: peu@midh.gov.bz

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

CALEDONIA MAIN STREET UPGRADING PROJECT

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH), intends to pave the Caledonia Main Street in the Corozal District using Double Bituminous Surface Treatment (DBST).

Provided there are no delays, construction is expected to start within a month. The MIDH hereby invites interested contractors in the civil works to be part of this bidding process.

The Project is being implemented by the MIDH, Project Execution Unit (PEU). An Engineering Coordinator within the PEU will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project activities.

The Scope of Works includes:

- Preparation of subgrade layer
- Placement of subbase and basecourse layers
- Drainage improvements
- Paving of the road using Double Bituminous Surface Dressing Treatment (DBST)

Consideration will be given to local firms who have qualified extensive experience in road construction of a similar size and complexity.

Minimum Qualification Criteria:

- General Construction Experience: 10 Years
- Specific Construction Experience in application of DBST
- Contract Management Experience: 5 Years
- Construction Experience in a Project of Similar Size and Complexity (one)
- Access to Line of Credit: $200,000.00
- Average annual turnover of minimum: Bz$300,000.00
- Qualified registered Engineer: 5 years' experience

Effective **Monday 16 December 2024**, Bidding Documents are available at a cost of **Bz$500.00** from the address below.

Bidders shall submit proposals (one original and one hard copy) in a sealed envelope to the address below. The sealed envelope containing each submission must include the name and address of the applicant.

A Site Visit will be conducted on **Thursday 19 December 2024** at **10:00am**. Bidders shall congregate at the intersection of Caledonia Main Street with the Philip Goldson Highway.

All Bidding Documents properly completed should reach the office of the Chief Engineer at the address below no later than **Monday 30 December 2024** at **10:00 am**. The Ministry shall not accept responsibility for any costs incurred by the applicants.

Attention: Mr. Evondale Moody
Chief Engineer / Engineering Coordinator
Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Power Lane
Belmopan
BELIZE C.A.

Tel: +501-828-5220
Email: peu@midh.gov.bz

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

UPGRADING OF MARAGE ROAD IN BELIZE CITY

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH), intends to pave the Marage Road in Belize City using Hot-Mix Asphalt Concrete overlay.

Provided there are no delays, construction is expected to start within a month. The MIDH hereby invites interested contractors in the civil works to be part of this bidding process.

The Project is being implemented by the MIDH, Project Execution Unit (PEU). An Engineering Coordinator within the PEU will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project activities.

The Scope of Works includes:

- Scarification of existing pavement where necessary
- Placement of basecourse layer
- Overlay paving of the road using Hot-Mix Asphalt Concrete Pavement

Consideration will be given to local firms who have qualified extensive experience in road construction of a similar size and complexity.

Minimum Qualification Criteria:

- General Construction Experience: 10 Years
- Specific Construction Experience in application of Hot-Mix Asphalt Cement
- Contract Management Experience: 5 Years
- Construction Experience in a Project of Similar Size and Complexity (one)
- Access to Line of Credit: $200,000.00
- Average annual turnover of minimum: Bz$300,000.00
- Qualified registered Engineer: 5 years' experience

Effective **Monday 16 December 2024**, Bidding Documents are available at a cost of **Bz$500.00** from the address below.

Bidders shall submit proposals (one original and one hard copy) in a sealed envelope to the address below. The sealed envelope containing each submission must include the name and address of the applicant.

A Site Visit will be conducted on **Thursday 19 December 2024** at **10:00am**. Bidders shall congregate at the intersection of Marage Road with the Philip Goldson Highway.

All Bidding Documents properly completed should reach the office of the Chief Engineer at the address below no later than **Monday 30 December 2024** at **10:00 am**. The Ministry shall not accept responsibility for any costs incurred by the applicants.

Attention: Mr. Evondale Moody
Chief Engineer / Engineering Coordinator
Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Power Lane
Belmopan
BELIZE C.A.

Tel: +501-828-5220
Email: peu@midh.gov.bz

Ministry of Rural Transformation
Community Development, Labour and Local Government

CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

Consultancy Services for the Comprehensive Review of the Labour Act in Belize

PURPOSE:

The Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government is inviting proposals from qualified consultancy firms to conduct a comprehensive review of the Labour Chapter 297, Revised Edition 2020.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY:

The objective of this consultancy is to engage a qualified consultancy firm to conduct a comprehensive review of the Labour Act, Chapter 297, Revised Edition 2020, with the aim of modernizing the Act and streamlining related legislations. This includes identifying areas for improvement, preparing recommendations for legislative changes that align with current labour standards and Belize's evolving needs, and drafting the necessary amendments.

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

(i) **Inception Report**: Submit a detailed work plan, methodology, and timeline for the review process within two weeks of contract signing.

(ii) **Situational and Policy Analysis Report:** Prepare an in-depth assessment of the current Labour Act, and related legislations based on public and stakeholders' consultations, interviews and a thorough desk review of key documentation, national regional, and international legislative records and any other relevant materials obtained through independent research using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

(iii) **Conduct Public and Stakeholders Consultation**: Coordination with the Labour Act Review Committee, the Ministry of Labour and representatives of the ILO, to conduct consultations with social partners and national stakeholders.

(iv) **Drafting of the White paper and the and Modernized Labour Act:** Prepare multiple drafts of the modernized Labour Act and overseeing the consultations conducted regarding these drafts.

(v) **Presentation of Draft Legislation**: Present the draft legislation to key stakeholders, including the Review Committee, Ministry of Labour, and the ILO.

(vi) **Final Report and Legislative Draft**: Produce a final version of the Modernized Labour Act.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND ELIGIBILITY OF CONSULTANCY FIRM

Consultancy firms seeking to undertake this consultancy must ensure that team members within the firm possess the following:

- A Law Degree (LLB) with at least ten (10) years of post-qualification experience in practicing law in Belize or the Caribbean, including experience in employment law.
- Demonstrated experience in legislative drafting and legal reform processes.
- A member in good standing with the Belize Bar Association or a recognized home-country Bar Association.
- In-depth knowledge of Belize's legal system, including the Labour Act and other labour laws, as well as familiarity with CARICOM Model Laws.
- Strong knowledge of Labour Market and Labour economics.
- Understanding of ILO Conventions and their application.
- Strong analytical, research, and communication skills.
- Ability to conduct qualitative and quantitative research.
- Experience in facilitating public and stakeholder consultations.
- Proficiency in English and Spanish.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively.
- Sound judgment, strategic thinking, and the ability to manage competing project activities.
- Ability to produce high-quality outputs within time and budget.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND SELECTION PROCESS:

Each proposal should consist of the following:

1. Curriculum Vitae: A CV (2 pages maximum) highlighting the consultancy firm's experience in similar projects. It should include:
   - A summary of professional and academic qualifications, with emphasis on experience in legislative drafting, labour law, and legal reform.
   - Examples of previous work where the firm has led or contributed to the drafting or modernization of legislation, particularly in labour or employment law, Rule of Law, legal frameworks, CARICOM Model Law, knowledge of government processes, social dialogue, industrial relations, ILO Conventions, Recommendations and Protocols, and supervisory systems.
   - Detailed experience in stakeholder engagement, particularly in conducting consultations with diverse groups.
   - Relevant samples of work and/or hyperlinks to published material.

2. Cover Letter: A letter detailing the firm's interest in the position and its suitability for the role. It should outline the firm's understanding of the project scope and how its background aligns with the project's needs. Additionally, the letter should describe the proposed approach to managing the review and modernization of the Labour Act, including any unique strategies or methodologies. The letter should also indicate the firm's availability for the duration of the consultancy.

3. Technical Proposal: This should include a brief methodology, including the firm's approach to reviewing existing legislations, conducting stakeholder consultations, drafting new legislation, and finalizing the legislative framework. A draft timeline for the key deliverables (see section VI, paragraphs (i) to (iv) of the Terms of Reference) should be included. The proposal should also detail how the firm will ensure adherence to international labour standards while aligning with Belize's legal and socio-economic context.
   - The consultancy is expected to begin in January 2025 and complete the project by December 2025.
   - The schedule and method for stakeholder consultations will be determined jointly after the selection process, based on stakeholder availability.

4. Price Proposal: A price proposal that includes all consultancy fees and related expenses. Meetings and workshop costs will be covered by the Ministry.

5. References: Provide at least three professional references from previous clients or employers who can attest to the firm's capabilities in legal drafting and legislative review. Include contact details for each reference.

6. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

7. The full Terms of Reference may be requested from labour.comm@labour.gov.bz.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

All submissions must be made by 20th December 2024 at 4:00pm to:

Labour Commissioner
Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government
5163 University Boulevard, Belmopan City, **CAYO**

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that **Zhi Wei Zhou** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"J & W Shopping Mart"** located at # 22 6th Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Joy Arana & Jeffery Francisco** are applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Sindiri Restaurant & Bar"** located on East Havana Street, Dangriga, Stann Creek District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Shao Qing Huang** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Vista Restaurant"** located at # 632 Vista Del Mar, Ladyville Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Wilson Chi-Leung Cheung/Xiaoli Zhao** are applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Pandora Cafe"** located at # 2136 St. Thomas Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Einar Yamil Marin** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Bleu By Einar Marin"** located at # 111 North Front Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jia Wei Li** is applying for a **Publican General Liquor License** to be operated at **"Tommy's Shop"** located at # 6519 C.A. Blvd., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Sharlette Miguel** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Mayan Crystal Skull"** located in Rockstone Pond Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Sharlette Miguel** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Mayan Crystal Skull II"** located in Rockstone Pond Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Vishaun Usher** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"V & J Restaurant"** located in Maskall Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Dwayne Hulse** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"D'Upscale Bar & Lounge"** located at 2 ½ Mls. P.G. HWY., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Juanita P. Banner** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Panchie's"** located in Willow's Bank Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Margaret Dawson** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Say It"** located at 16 Mls. P.G. HWY., Sandhill Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Gloria Azucena Reyes** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Liony Grocery Shop"** located on Norma L. Young Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Rhea Enumberables Landero** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Khloe's Grocery Shop"** located at # 16 New Road, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **ChuangQi Rong & JinJiao Rong** are applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"J.C. Max Shopping Market"** located at # 12 Avenida Mangle, Caye Caulker, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Caribbean Best Producers Ltd.** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Caribbean Best Producers Ltd."** located at # 609/10 P.G. HWY., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Cherry Mae Galvez** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"C & B Snack Shop"** located in Sand Hill Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **A.Z.M. Obaidul Islam** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Caribbean Charm"** located at # 111 North Front Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Hasan Ahmed** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Baba Shopping Mart"** located at # 95 Amara Avenue, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Francisca Gonzalez** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Marisco Bay Restaurant And Bar"** located at # 46 King Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Felipa Barrella** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Barrella's Fruit & Veg Shop"** located at # 6484 Jasmine Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Alba Maria Dubon** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Carlos Fruit & Vegetables"** located at # 1202 Mahogany Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Hector Daniel** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Reef Restaurant & Bar"** located at # 17 Regent Street West, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Samira Suzanne Young** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Sammy's Fast Food"** located on Res. Holy Emmanuel Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Xiao Zhong Wang** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"We Hardware & Construction Supplies"** located at # 1 Mitchell Estate, Ladyville Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Yue Shao Ruan** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"R & I Snack Shop"** located at # 7680 Faber's Road, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Simeon Alvarez** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Super Pine Sports Bar"** located at # 223 Mahogany Heights, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jose O. Miranda** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Blue Coral Management Ltd."** located at Little Caye Bok, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Sonia Alas & Rosa Flores** are applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"80's Deck"** located at # 12 Guadeloupe Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Kent Lam** is applying for a **Hotel Liquor License (Single Bar)** to be operated at **"Golden Tree Hotel"** located at # 1740 Coney Drive, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Geraldine L. Roca** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"PJ's Hideaway"** located in Willow's Bank Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Alita Gentle** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Gentle Cool Spot"** located in Gales Point Manatee Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bowen & Bowen Ltd.** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz"** located Cor. Avenida Hicaco & Chapoose Street, Caye Caulker, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bowen & Bowen Ltd.** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz"** located Up North, San Pedro Town, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bowen & Bowen Ltd.** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz"** located on Marina Drive, San Pedro Town, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bowen & Bowen Ltd.** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz"** located on Laguna Drive/Pearl Street, San Pedro Town, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Hiron Luis Giron** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"G & M Hideaway"** located in Bullet Tree Falls Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Winston Dawson** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"La Pasadita Restaurant & Bar"** located on La Loma Luz Blvd., Santa Elena Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Gabriel Gray/ Claudine Young** are applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Kriol Mama's"** located at Mls. 53 Bze/ Czl. Road, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Amelio Tillett** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"Recreational Cool Spot"** located in Trinidad Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jamil Matar** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Grab & Go Shop N Grill"** located at # 009 Philip Goldson St., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Roger A. Cuellar** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"Morning Star"** located on Bze/Czl. Road, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Renan Briceno** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Zia's Pool Room"** located at # 36 Cemetery St., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Janel Magana** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"The Poison Apple"** located at # 36 Cemetery St., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Sandra A. Campos** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"CJ's Mart"** located at # 39 Stadium St., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **MD Nazim Ahmed** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Bangladesh Mini Mart"** located at # 1 Otro Benque, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Zakir Ahmed** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Jalalabad Store"** located at # 13 Dunn St., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Troy Sanchez** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"T & M Corner Shop"** located at # 196 Goldson Neals Pen Road, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

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